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MANNA:

A BOOK OF DAILY WORSHIP,

CONTAINING

Brief Scripture Lessons and Prayers for Individual and Family Use,

FOR EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR.

"LORD, EVERMORE GIVE US THIS BREAD."

BY J. W. HANSON, D.D.

"More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. . . . .
For so the whole round earth, in every way,
Is bound by golden chains around the feet
Of God."

SEVENTH EDITION.

BOSTON:
UNIVERSALIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1892.

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4811
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1892
Cop. 1

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1877,
By J. W. Hanson,
In the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington.

Presswork by John Wilson and Son,
University Press.

PREFACE.

This manual of devotion contains a brief and simple form of worship for every day in the year. A single page comprehends each day's service. The Scriptures have been selected with reference to variety and devotional, doctrinal and practical influence, and the prayers are constructed to resemble in brevity, simplicity and spirit that immortal model, the LORD'S PRAYER. A large number of Liturgies have been placed under contribution, and the compiler believes that he has obtained the best part of the ancient and modern forms of devotion, and so adapted them to a rational worship, as to meet the needs of the Christian, who feels, as all must feel, that "The first hour of the morning is the rudder of the day."

We have appropriated sentiments and language from all sources, Catholic and Protestant, from St. Chrysostom to Theodore Parker, from Hannah More to James Martineau, from Bishop Watson to Abel C. Thomas. The "Christian Liturgy" of the Unitarian Church and the "Gospel Liturgy" of the Universalist, the Episcopal "Common Prayer" and the "Catholic litanies," all speak the common language of the soul, and such of the utterances of any of these or any other, as seem to be useful to a rational devotion to-day, we have drawn upon.

Many shrink from shaping their religious emotions in words, especially in the family, from a distrust of their ability to clothe sincere worship in fitting language. This manual will enable such, at home or abroad, in the closet or in the family, to sound a fitting key-note to each day in the year. May multitudes find it a vehicle of devotion that shall aid them to cultivate the habit of seeking help and strength from the Source of all good.

Many of these aspirations have been breathed by thousands whose faith is now fruition. May other thousands find them instrumental in keeping them in conscious nearness to their God and Father, and so strengthen them to bear the burdens, and faithfully perform the work of life.

—Besides the daily services, the book contains special services for "Easter," "For the Sick," "By the Sick," "Thanksgiving," and "Bereavement," which can be found by means of the index below.

—The compiler would recommend the Lord's Prayer as a fitting exercise at the end of each service.

INDEX OF SPECIAL SERVICES.

Easter - - - - - - - - - - - End of April.
By the Sick - - - - - - - - - - End of June.
For the Sick - - - - - - - - - - End of September.
Thanksgiving - - - - - - - - - End of November.
Bereavement - - - - - - - - - - End of December.

January.

Strong Son of God, immortal Love,
Whom we, that have not seen thy face,
By faith, and faith alone, embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove;

Thou seemest human and divine,
The highest, holiest manhood thou;
Our wills are ours, we know not how;
Our wills are ours, to make them thine.

He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us
He made and loveth all.

JANUARY FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.—Gen. i: 1–3, 31. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.—John i: 1–5, 9. He that believeth not God hath made him a liar, because he believeth not the record that God gave of his son. And this is the record, that God has given us eternal life; and this life is in his son.—I. John v: 10, 11.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we come unto Thee that we may receive Thy blessing on the threshold of this New Year. Thou knowest the end from the beginning. Thou seest all things, while we know not what a day may bring to us. We realize that we have left many things undone that we ought to have done. We pray Thee to forgive us for every neglected duty, and through the present year may we be more mindful of our obligations to Thee, and may we perform faithfully all the duties of life. Aid us to pass safely through all that may gather around us; and when our years on earth are ended, bring us to Thyself, to praise Thee forever and ever. Amen.

JANUARY SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of men, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.—John i: 10–14. The exceeding greatness of his power to us ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.—Eph. i: 19–23.

PRAYER.

THOU, Father, art nigh to those who call on Thee in truth. Thou wilt hear the prayer of those who love Thee, and save them. We bow before Thee; though we see Thee not, yet we are taught by Thy word and works that Thou art, and that Thou art not far from any one of us. And now that Thy name is on our lips, write Thy laws upon our hearts, that we may have years of life and peace on earth. And when these years shall end, take us to dwell with Thee in Heaven. We ask it as disciples of Christ. Amen.

JANUARY THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THOUGH I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.—I. Cor. xiii: 1–3, 7.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, on whom all creatures depend, and whose hand is ever open for the supply of our wants, we come to Thee in prayer. Accept our offerings, and enable us with reverence to worship Thee, and seek Thy blessing. Thou art infinite in wisdom, goodness and power, and worthy the praise of all hearts. To Thy guidance we submit our ways, and to Thy disposal our interests, for time and eternity. We look to Thee for safety amidst unforeseen exposures; for subsistence; for raiment; for health; for fruitful seasons, and for all the supports and comforts of life. Every day would we pray to Thee as disciples of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

JANUARY FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

CHARITY never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.—I. Cor. xiii: 8–13.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS Father, Thou hast kept us from day to day, and hast brought us to this time in peace. We praise Thee for all Thy gifts. Take away our sins and make our lives pure, that we may be more worthy to call Thee Father, and to ask Thee to make Thy face to shine upon us. We have strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. O, call us back to Thy fold, we pray Thee. Make us to lie down in green pastures. Lead us beside the still waters. We cannot thank Thee as we ought, for all Thou hast done for us. With our very first breath we drank in Thy love. And every step we take in life, brings us fresh proofs of Thy care. May these truths dwell in our minds, that we may do Thy will on earth as it is done in heaven. And to Thee, the source of all good, we will give the praise. Amen.

JANUARY FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

EVERY word of God is pure: He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.—Prov. xxx: 5. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.—Prov. iv: 23. Honor the Lord with thy substance; and with the first fruit of all thine increase.—Prov. iii: 9. There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing; there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.—Prov. xiii: 7. He that is soon angry, dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated. In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence; and his children shall have a place of refuge.—Prov. xiv: 17, 26. Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide, which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.—I. Cor. iii: 13–15.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, in whom is the fountain of life and light: all we have of blessing is the gift of Thy goodness: all we are of goodness is the work of Thy grace. Make us sensible, that the more we confide in Thee, the more we honor Thee, and that the greater will be our peace, the closer and more trustfully we walk by Thy side. Amen.

JANUARY SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures. He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me, in the presence of mine enemies. thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.—Ps. xxiii.

PRAYER.

EVER-LIVING Father, we devoutly thank Thee for those mercies which are new every morning and fresh every evening—by which our lives are prolonged, and our various domestic, social and spiritual blessings are perpetuated. We ask of Thee the influence of Thy spirit upon our hearts, that will enable us ever to realize our entire dependence upon Thee for all things desirable. And may the multiform blessings which our own sinfulness does not deter Thee from daily bestowing upon us, awaken us to that devout gratitude which shall manifest itself in a cheerful obedience to Thy laws. May we look unto Thee for direction and assistance in the performance of every duty; and may we remember that we have no light nor strength but that which proceeds from Thy spirit, and can have no true enjoyment except it be kindled by Thy smile. Prepare us for a more faithful discharge of our duties to Thee, to our family, and to the world; and may the example of Jesus ever be the pattern of our daily walk and conversation. Amen.

JANUARY SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SEEK ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: so shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.—Isa. lv: 6–11.

PRAYER.

OUR Heavenly Father! we come before Thee with our sacrifice of prayer, entreating Thee to help us of Thy good spirit, that our offerings may be acceptable in Thy sight. Into this hour breathe such divine influences as shall consecrate our souls to Thee. Inspire us with thoughts and feelings suited to Thy presence. As disciples of Thy son, and with fervent gratitude to him as our Savior, we would draw nigh to Thee, remembering how far away from Thee we should have been without him, and how near to Thee he will lead us, if we follow his guidance. We invoke that Divine assistance which shall enable us to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHICH is the Great Commandment in the law? Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment; and the second is like unto it. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.—Matt. xxii: 36-39. All things whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them.—Matt. vii: 12. Christ said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another as I have loved you."—John xiii: 34. We love him because he first loved us. And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God, love his brother also.—I. John iv: 19, 21. Be ye therefore followers of God as dear children; and walk in love as Christ also hath loved us.—Eph. v: 1, 2.

PRAYER.

O THOU, who art the Infinite Father of all souls, the same yesterday, to-day and forever: we give thanks to Thy name that we are spared to behold the light of this hour. Prepare us, O God, for all the duties of the year upon which we have entered. May we be guarded against sickness, calamity and death; may we be led by Thy hand in the paths of wisdom. Enable us to feel that our way will be dark and wretched, unless we follow Thy directions; that peace cannot be our portion if we live in sin. Help us, O God, to begin a new life; may we cease from the unfruitful works of darkness; may we be created anew in the likeness of Jesus Christ, and be so governed by new desires and cheered by new hopes, as to walk in newness of life. Amen.

JANUARY NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THY mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; thy judgments are a great deep: O Lord, thou preservest man and beast. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.—Ps. xxxvi: 5–9. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the governor among the nations.—Ps. xxii: 27, 28. All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him, all men shall be blessed in him: all nations shall call him blessed.—Ps. lxxii: 11, 17.

PRAYER.

FATHER, we have erred, and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices of our own hearts. We have broken Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. Have mercy upon us, and forgive us as we confess our sins, and turn from them. Restore us by penitence according to the promise of Thy love in Jesus Christ. And grant, O Father! that we may live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

JANUARY TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEN a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with righteousness, than great revenues without right. Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Pleasant words are as an honey-comb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.—Prov. xvi: 7–32. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.—Rom. viii: 21.

PRAYER.

EVER-LIVING Father, who art the light of every mind that seeks Thee, and the life of every heart that loves Thee: deepen within us the assurance of Thy loving-kindness, that we may come unto Thee in the rejoicing of praise; quicken us into a sense of our frailties, that our souls may bow in the humility of prayer. Thy loving-kindness, filling the heaven of heavens with Thy blessing, has overflowed into all the earth. Make us sensible, O our God, that when we turn away from the light, we walk in our own shadow. Let the hand of Thy love be upon us, that we may never be deaf to the voice of Thy calling, nor hardened against Thee. Amen.

JANUARY ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God. Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.—Matt. v: 3–10.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, who didst send Thy word to speak in the prophets and live in Thy son, revive the purity and deepen the power of the testimony of Thy kingdom; and through the din of earthly interests, and the storm of human passions, let it make the still small voice of Thy spirit inly felt. Nearer and nearer may Thy kingdom come from age to age; meeting the face of the young as a rising dawn, and brightening with joy the song of the old. By the cleansing spirit of Thy son make this world a fitting entrance to that sanctuary not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Amen.

JANUARY TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE earth also was corrupt before God; and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, the end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth; and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark.—Gen. vi: 11-13; vii 23. And the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth: neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.—Gen. viii: 21, 22. And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: and I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.—Gen. ix: 12-15.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who, of Thy great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who, with hearty repentance and true faith, turn unto Thee; have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FRET not thyself because of evil doers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb. Trust in the Lord, and do good: so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed. Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass. And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday. Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass. Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil. For evil doers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth.—Ps. xxxvii: 1–9.

PRAYER.

WE render thanks to Thee, O our Father, for all the testimonies of Thy love. May we feel our dependence upon Thee for all we have and all we enjoy; that we may worship Thee with all our hearts. We pray for Thy blessing to rest upon us. May we ever feel grateful to Thee for all expressions of Thy goodness; and may we show our gratitude by our obedience to Thy will. Help us, we pray Thee, to live according to Thy precepts; that others, seeing our good works, may be led to glorify Thy name, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BEWARE of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit; neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.—Matt. vii: 15–19. Even so a good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.—Matt. xii: 35. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.—Matt. vii: 20.

PRAYER.

O THOU, our Father, on whom all creatures depend, the source and centre of all truth and life; we come to Thee with grateful hearts for the privileges and blessings which we now enjoy. We would renew our vows to Thee, to love and serve Thee better, and to seek, in all we do and say, to glorify Thy name. Help us to resist temptation, to turn our eyes away from the false attractions of sin, to overcome evil with good. May we abhor all that is wrong, and cleave only to that which is just and right. Prepare us for all the duties and trials of the world; give us strength to labor, and patience to endure, and bring us at last to serve Thee in a higher and better life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHOSOEVER heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand; and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell; and great was the fall of it.—Matt. vii; 24–27.

PRAYER.

WE adore Thee as the only living and true God, the Father of all mankind. Thou hast created us in the image of Thyself, and called us by the tender name of children. And we would render unto Thee a worthy offering of praise for Thy love and kindness toward us. Day by day Thou hast provided for our wants, and crowned us with Thy richest favors. Thou art the light of our pathway, and the joy of our souls. We would bring our hearts to Thee. Make us more worthy of Thy love, more worthy to be called Thy children. Teach us of Thy will and purposes concerning us; of our duties to Thee and to each other. Give unto each of us wisdom from on high, to guide us in all the ways of life, and grant us Thy salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.—Ps. cxix: 1. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house: they will be still praising thee.—Ps. lxxxiv: 4. Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times.—Ps. cvi: 3. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.—Ps. i: 1–3.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, our hearts turn to Thee. Thou only canst comfort and support us. We seek light and guidance from none other. Thou wilt not forsake any soul which Thou hast made. We may wander from Thee, forgetting our Father's home with its delights, but Thou seest us when we are a great way off, and dost wait for our return; yea, dost call, and go out to meet, and welcome us with Thy love, and dost renew the blessings of our lives. Thy spirit guides us, draws us together, and makes us one forever. Now, touch our hearts with Thy love, and inspire us with Thy truth, and may we worship together in heavenly places, through Thy spirit. Amen.

JANUARY SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THIS, then, is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: but if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.—I. John 1: 5–10 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; and having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him I say, whether they be things in earth or things in heaven.—Col. i: 19, 20.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who makest Thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust: strengthen our hearts by Thy spirit, minister truth to our needy minds, enliven our conscience, and pour Thy holy love upon every earnest, asking soul. Father, we thank Thee that Thy justice presides over this world, and out of evil bringeth forth good continually, making the wrath of man praise Thee. Teach us to love all. May we ever seek to be nobler and holier, truer and more faithful. Amen.

JANUARY EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

YE have heard that it was said by them of old time: Thou shalt not kill; and, whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment; but I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way: first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.—Matt. v: 21-24. If thy brother trespass against thee, and repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying: I repent; thou shalt forgive him.—Luke xvii: 3, 4.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, our Father, for the gift of Thy son. For all he did and suffered, we bring Thee the gift of joy and praise. We bless Thee for his words of truth, for his firm faith, for his great love, for his power over sin and death, and for his resurrection. May we never prove false to the great truths for which he gave his body to be broken, and his blood to be poured out on the cross. May the words that we say with our lips come warm from our hearts. May the works that we do with our hands be done with no eye to the praise of men. So shall we grow up in the likeness of the Lord Jesus, and be filled with Thy truth. And grant, Father, that our blessed Savior, who came into the world to do Thy will, may rule in every heart. May every eye see him, and every tongue confess him to be Lord, to the glory of Thee, the Father, whom we worship one God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, now and evermore. Amen.

JANUARY NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

TWO men went up into the temple to pray; the one a pharisee, and the other a publican. The pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself: God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying: God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.—Luke xviii: 10–14. But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.—Matt. vi : 6.

PRAYER.

FATHER! hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; give us day by day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, for even we also forgive every one that is indebted to us; and lead us not into temptation. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A SOWER went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up; some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprang up, because they had no deepness of earth; and when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up, and choked them; but others fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit; some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.—Matt. xiii : 3–9.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither yield ourselves the servants of error and wickedness; but that all our doings may be begun, continued and ended in Thee. Grace, mercy and peace, from God our Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, be and abide with us. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I WILL extol thee, my God, O King, and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee, and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, and his greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. I will speak of the glorious honor of thy majesty, and of thy wondrous works. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works. The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.—Ps. cxlv: 1–5; 8, 9; 18. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? Of him, through him, and to him are all things.—Rom. xi: 33–36.

PRAYER.

O THOU, our Father, who knowest the secrets of all hearts, unto Thee would we draw near. To whom shall we look but unto Thee for the strengthening of our faith, and for relief in the perplexing cares of life. May we be lifted by Thy strong arm, and in all seasons of distress and anguish may we confidingly seek Thee. May we be dwellers in Thy house and ever praise Thy name. May we strive to advance Thy truth at all times, and never hesitate to acknowledge our allegiance to our Heavenly King. Through all life's vicissitudes may we be led by Thy spirit and ever feel Thy watchful care over us. Give us devotional spirits, and may we rightly esteem our great Christian privileges. We ask all in the name of our Savior. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BEHOLD the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: and yet I say unto you, that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to-day is, and to-morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?—Matt. vi: 26–30. Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.—Matt. vi; 32, 33.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven: Thou art the source of all our hopes, both in this world and in that which is to come: to Thee do we owe life, and health, and all things. Thou hast always cared for us. Watch over us in all the years to come. Day after day Thou hast been with us, and comforts are round us on every side. O Lord, we bless Thy name for what is past. May the thought of Thy goodness lead us to repent of all our sins. May we walk in Thy will in the time to come. Help us to shun all that is wrong. Grant that we may keep our tongues from evil, and our lips from guile. Make our hearts a fit abode for Thy blessed spirit. Guard us from all that is wrong in Thy sight, and make us Thine in word and deed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEN the son of man shall come in his glory, . . . then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. —Matt. xxv: 31, 34–40.

PRAYER.

WE pray, O Father, that Thou wouldst mercifully look upon us in our infirmities; shield us from all the evils to which we are liable, and always may we put our trust in Thee. May we make the doing of Thy will more than all else, seeking first Thy kingdom and righteousness, trusting that all else needful for us will be added, and ever serve Thee in holiness and pureness of living, to Thy honor and glory. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOT every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—Matt. vii: 21. Giving all diligence, add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, temperance; and to temperance, patience; and to patience, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, charity.—II. Pet. i: 5-7. Let us not be weary in well-doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not.—Gal. vi: 9.

PRAYER.

WE praise Thee, O Father; we acknowledge Thee to be the Lord. All the earth doth worship Thee, the Father everlasting. To Thee all angels cry aloud; the heavens, and all the powers therein. To Thee, cherubim and seraphim continually do cry, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Sab-aoth! Heaven and earth are full of the majesty of Thy glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee. The noble army of Martyrs praise Thee. The holy Church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee, the Father of an infinite majesty: Also Thine anointed and honorable son, and the Holy Spirit the Comforter. O God, the King of Glory! help us, Thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed by the hand of Thy mighty power: make us to be numbered with Thy saints in glory everlasting. Day by day we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy name ever, world without end. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

OFFER unto God thanksgiving, and pay thy vows unto the most high.—Ps. 1: 14. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear. Surely shall one say, in the Lord have I righteousness and strength.—Isa. xlv: 23,24. It shall not return unto me void; but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.—Isa. lv: 11. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down. The eyes of all wait upon thee; and thou givest them their meat in due season. Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.—Ps. cxlv: 13–16. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.—Ps. cxlv: 21.

PRAYER.

MAKER of all worlds, Thou only art our God, Thou only art our Father. May we, Thy children, love and serve Thee; may our hearts be full of joy, hallowed by Thy presence. When we turn from the vision of Thy works to commune in solitude, be Thou with us still; may the spirit of Thy works breathe upon our hearts, transforming us into Thy likeness, from grace to grace, and from glory to glory. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

PRAISE ye the Lord: for it is good to sing praise unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely. Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite. The Lord lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground. Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God: who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains. He maketh peace in thy borders, and filleth thee with the finest of the wheat. He sendeth forth his commandment upon earth: his word runneth very swiftly. He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoar frost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold? He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, and the waters flow. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them. Praise ye the Lord.—Ps. cxlvii: 1; 5–8; 14–18; 20.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all souls, Thy goodness covers and blesses all Thy creatures. We have no gifts for Thee, but Thy hand is ever full of gifts for us, enriching us with Thy love and bounty when we come to Thee. When Thou sayest, Seek ye my face, may our hearts reply, Thy face will we seek. Teach us how to seek Thee aright, with pure hearts and sincere desires, striving to love and obey Thee. And Thine shall be the praise and the glory forever. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keep himself unspotted from the world.—James i: 13–17; 27. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver them who, through fear of death, were, all their life-time, subject to bondage.—Heb. ii: 14, 15. For this purpose the son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. I. John iii: 8.

PRAYER.

O THOU Infinite One, whose throne is the heavens, and whose footstool is the earth, may we commune with Thee face to face; and amidst all the noises of earth, may we hear Thy still, small voice, calling us to a better, nobler life. May we rest under the shadow of Thy wings, and be warmed by Thy love. We adore and worship Thee, but Thou dost transcend our best thought of Thee, and Thy thoughts, ever dear to us, cannot be numbered. All Thy works praise Thee, O God, and all Thy children shall worship Thee, the Father Almighty. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoreth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved.—Ps. xv: 1–5.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies and God of all grace, we would praise Thee, day by day, for Thy manifold blessings. Thy love hath strewed our pathway with flowers, and kindled emotions of joy and gladness in our hearts. Wilt Thou, by the continued exhibitions of Thy goodness, lead us to repent of every sin, and humbly implore Thy pardon. Give us the meek and humble mind of Jesus, and make his life our model, and his truth our guide. Give us a just sense of our indebtedness to Thee, for the unparalleled exhibitions of righteousness furnished us in the example of him who was the "brightness of the Father's glory, and the express image of his person." Make us to love him as our Redeemer, and honor him as the author of our salvation. May the Gospel of truth, which he established, the good tidings of good unto all people, be blessed of Thee, until it shall have triumphed over error and sin, and banished them from the universe; and man shall love his neighbor as himself. Amen.

JANUARY TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I BESEECH you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.—Rom. xii: 1–5.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Parent, from whom all good gifts do come; grant that we may use Thy mercies to our profit, and to Thy praise. Teach us to be glad in Thy truth, that we may love Thee with all our hearts. May it be our chief joy to worship Thee, and to give Thee thanks. May we honor Thy holy name and word, and serve Thee to the end of our days. Blot out all our sins, and be with us forever. Hear our prayer, and grant us all we need, and to Thee, the only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ, forever. Amen.

JANUARY THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O LORD, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger. When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained, what is man, that thou art mindful of him, and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth.—Ps. viii: 1-9.

PRAYER.

FATHER of Spirits, whom truly to know is eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom: Grant us Thy heavenly grace, that we may thoughtfully honor the revelation from on high; and do Thou so quicken us into the inner life of Thy holy word, that our faith may be centred in Thine infinite and everlasting love. Through Jesus Christ. Amen.

JANUARY THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEY brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed. And when they could not come nigh to Jesus because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch, into the midst before Jesus. And he, seeing their faith, said unto the palsied man, Son, be of good cheer; thy sins are forgiven thee. And behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. Who can forgive sins but God only? But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For which is easier? to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee? or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins—(he said unto the palsied man)—I say unto thee Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thy house. And he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them, glorifying God.—Matt. ix: 2–6 and Luke v: 18–26.

PRAYER.

O FATHER of infinite mercy, in whose loving kindness we trust for the supply of all our wants, grant us such a portion of temporal good as may be needful to support us in our journey through life! preserve us from accident and evil; sanctify our hearts and direct our ways, that we may be united to Thee by the living bond of obedience and charity; and that always feeling the presence of our gracious and merciful Father, we may be upright children before Thee, and be received hereafter into the family of heaven, prepared through the ministry of Thy beloved son, our elder brother in spiritual things, anointed to be Thy Christ. Amen.

February.

One sweetly solemn thought
Comes to me o'er and o'er,
I'm nearer home to-day
Than I've ever been before.
Nearer the bound of life,
Where we lay our burden down;
Nearer leaving the cross;
Nearer gaining the crown.

God's spirit falls on me as dew-drops on a rose,
If I, but like a rose, to Him my heart unclose.

FEBRUARY FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O SING unto the Lord a new song! sing unto the Lord, all the earth, sing unto the Lord, bless his name; show forth his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the heathen, his wonders among all people. For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised: he is to be feared above all gods; for all the gods of the nations are idols; but the Lord made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary. Give unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the people, give unto the Lord glory and strength. Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: bring an offering and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.—Ps. xcvi: 1–9. I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.—Ps. ii: 8.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

FEBRUARY SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I WILL sing of the mercies of the Lord for ever: with my mouth will I make known thy faithfulness to all generations. For I have said mercy shall be built up for ever: thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens.—Ps. lxxxix: 1, 2. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance.—Ps. lxxxix: 15. Thou wilt show me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy, at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.—Ps. xvi: 11. He will have all men to be saved and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.—I. Tim. ii: 4. He will swallow up death in victory, and wipe tears from off all faces.—Isa. xxv: 8. He will destroy the works of the devil.—I. John iii: 8. He will destroy man's last enemy.—I. Cor. xv: 26. He will reconcile all things unto himself.—Col. i: 20. He will finish sin, make an end of transgression, and bring in everlasting righteousness. —Dan. ix: 24.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, who hast safely brought us to this day; defend us in the same with Thy mighty power, and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Though a host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.—Ps. xxvii: 1-5. When thou saidst, seek ye my face; my heart said unto thee, thy face, Lord, will I seek. Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. When my father and my mother forsake me,then the Lord will take me up. I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.—Ps. xxvii: 8-13.

PRAYER.

WE extol Thee, our Father, and magnify Thy name. May Thy praise be ever upon our lips, and Thy glory fill our souls with light and life. Thou art the source of all true blessings, and we bless Thee that Thou art good to all Thy children. We know Thou art nigh to all that call upon Thee in truth, and that Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works. Give us grateful hearts that we may fully appreciate the favors of Thy hand, and acknowledge Thee as our only Lord. May all generations praise Thee, and give all honor and glory to Thy name. Graciously consider us in all our petitions to Thee, and in Thine own time bring us to Thyself. Amen.

FEBRUARY FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I THEREFORE, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called. With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, through all, and in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And he gave some, apostles: and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.—Eph. iv: 1–8; 11–13.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our Father, that Thou hast given us Thy word, and that we are taught Thy truth. May we learn to love that truth. May it be so fixed in our minds that, with the faith of Christ on our lips, and in our hearts, we may know and do Thy will. So shall our tongues praise Thee with songs of joy, and our hearts shall love Thee more than words can tell. Be with us now and at all times. Blot out all our sins, and make us to serve Thee now and evermore, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O LORD thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my down-sitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.—Ps. cxxxix: 1-12.

PRAYER.

O GOD, the Creator and Father of all mankind, we beseech Thee for all conditions of men, that Thou wouldst be pleased to make Thy ways known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations, that they may be guided and governed by Thy good spirit, and that all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. We commend to Thy Fatherly goodness, all those who are any ways afflicted or distressed in mind, body, or estate; that it may please Thee to comfort and relieve them, according to their several necessities; giving them patience under their sufferings, and a happy issue out of all their afflictions; and this we beg through Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HOW sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth. Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.—Ps. cxix: 103-105. He will not always chide.—Ps. ciii: 9. He will not contend forever.—Isa. lvii: 16. He will not cast off forever.—Lam. iii: 31. He will not retain his anger forever.—Micah vii: 18. How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.—Ps. cxxxix: 17, 18; 23, 24.

PRAYER.

LORD of all power and might, who art the Author and Giver of all good things, and who art our Father, graft in our hearts the love of Thy name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness, and of Thy great mercy keep us in the same. And may the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEY said therefore unto him, What sign showest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work? Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, he gave them bread from heaven to eat. Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.—John vi: 30–35. And have hope toward God that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.—Acts xxiv: 15.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, with whom is no change nor shadow of turning, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, we ask of Thee wisdom, who giveth to all liberally. We would ask, in faith, nothing doubting, believing that in coming nigh to Thee, Thou dost draw near to us. O Thou, who canst not be tempted with evil, neither dost tempt any one; we confess that we are led away by our own lust and enticed; but we pray Thee, O Father, to hear our prayer in the hour of peril, and save us from the evil of the world. Amen.

FEBRUARY EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.—Rev. xxii: 14. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.—Ps. xxxii: 1. Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the Lord will deliver him in time of trouble.—Ps. xli: 1. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life.—James i: 12. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.—Rev. xiv: 13. Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever.—Rev. vii: 12.

PRAYER.

FATHER in heaven, Thy word is true; it leads the soul in the way of life; it makes wise the simple; gives sight to the blind; and saves from the sin that is in the world all who truly believe. And as we are prone to let go the things which make for our peace, and as Thou wilt help those who come to Thee to learn Thy truth, we pray Thee to cause the light of Thy word to shine in our minds, and give us hearts free from all pride and trust in our own strength, that we may hear that word, that our lives may be such as shall please Thee. We pray that we may serve Thee as dear children all the days of our life. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

MY brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering: for he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.—James i: 2-7.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we rejoice that Thy spirit always strives with our spirits to bring us to holier resolves and better deeds. We thank Thee for the army of those who contend bravely for truth and justice in all ages, and especially for those of our own age who light their lamps by Thy truth, and enlighten others. We thank Thee for the things new and old, which the devout bring forth out of Thy treasury. We thank Thee that those things which are hidden from the worldly and prudent are revealed to the simple-minded and pure in heart. May we see Thee as Thou art, and worship Thee in spirit and in truth, being united to Thee by faith in Christ. Amen.

FEBRUARY TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BUT this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.—II. Cor. ix: 6, 7. To do good and to communicate, forget not; for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.—Heb. xiii: 16. Whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?—I. John iii: 17. Give alms of thy goods, and never turn thy face from any poor man; and then the face of the Lord shall not be turned away from thee. Be merciful after thy power. If thou hast much, give plenteously; if thou hast little, do thy diligence gladly to give that little; for so gatherest thou thyself a good reward in the day of necessity.—Apocrypha. He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.—Prov. xix: 17.

PRAYER.

O LORD our Father, without whom nothing is strong and nothing is holy: help us to discern how worthy Thou art to be adored, and how greatly we need Thy continual help, that our life may be dedicated to perpetual love and worship, and that we may, in the life that now is, enjoy a foretaste of that which awaits us hereafter, and which will be ours in a day without night, and in a world without end. Amen.

FEBRUARY ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house, he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.—Ps. ci: 7. These are the things that ye shall do: speak ye every man the truth to his neighbor. Execute the judgment of truth and peace in your gates; and love no false oath.—Zech. viii: 16, 17. Lie not one to another.—Col. iii: 9. Buy the truth, and sell it not.—Prov. xxiii. 23. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord.—Prov. xii: 22. The mouth that speaketh lies shall be stopped. The lip of truth shall be established forever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment.—Prov. xii: 19. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me, for thou art the God of my salvation. —Ps. xxv. 5.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given us grace at this time to make our common supplications unto Thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name Thou wilt grant their requests; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for us; granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BE not hasty in thy spirit to be angry, for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. Confess your faults one to another. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right. Fear God, and keep his commandments. He that hath pity upon the poor, lendeth unto the Lord. To obey is better than sacrifice. Keep thy tongue from evil. Learn to do well. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. Now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

FATHER in heaven, we mourn that Thou hast been so little in our thoughts. We grieve that we honor Thee so little in our lives. It is in vain that we say we thank Thee, since our lives, which speak so much louder than our words, show that we do not thank Thee as we ought. Let us not confess our sins with our lips, while we cleave to them with our hearts. Thou art the Way, the Truth and the Life. Be Thou ever with us to make clean our hands, to make pure our lips, to guard our thoughts, and to make right all our ways. We ask it through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HAPPY is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God: which made heaven and earth, the sea and all that therein is: which keepeth truth forever: which executeth judgment for the oppressed: which giveth food to the hungry. The Lord looseth the prisoners: the Lord openeth the eyes of the blind: the Lord raiseth them that are bowed down: the Lord loveth the righteous: the Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.—Ps. cxlvi: 5–10. The promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.—Acts ii: 39.

PRAYER.

O BLESSED and eternal Father, help us to do our duty. Kindle in our souls a flame of sacred love, which no infirmity within, or impediment without, can ever extinguish. May we always ask first what is Thy will, and may it be our meat and our drink to do that will. O Lord, enlighten our hearts, and abundantly refresh them with the strength of perfect faith, and the sweetness of perfect charity. Amen.

FEBRUARY FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I AM the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.—John x: 11, 14, 16. For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.—Luke xix: 10. Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.—I. Cor. iv: 5.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS and merciful Father, our defender and preserver: endue us with Thy grace, that we may not be too careful for worldly things, but may make it our chief study and care to keep Thy holy law; and that we may labor for the necessities of this world, like the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, without being anxious for the morrow. In the spirit of Thy dear son, we would cast all our care upon Thee, who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

FEBRUARY FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

EVERY man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the Lord thy God which he hath given thee.—Deut. xvi: 17. The poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, thou shalt open thy hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land.—Deut. xv: 11. Cast thy bread upon the waters, for thou shalt find it after many days.—Eccl. xi: 1. The liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.—Isa. xxxii: 8. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.—Luke vi: 38.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, our heavenly Father, for the light of Thy word. May we in such wise hear, read and learn it, that we may be saved from the sin that is in the world. And may we find, and ever hold fast, the hope of the life to come. May all who have the gospel of Thy dear son, live in its light and walk in its truth. Pardon all our sins. Guard us by night and by day. Save us from all that can do us harm. Unite us in the bonds of love. Build us up in Thy faith. In this faith would we live and die, and in its joy would we go to dwell with Thee in heaven, and to Thee, the only wise and unchangeably good, be glory now and evermore. Amen.

FEBRUARY SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREFORE, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: for he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.—James i: 19-26.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of all mercies, we give Thee humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BOTH a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig-tree, my brethren, bear olive-berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness and wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.—James iii: 11-18.

PRAYER.

GIVER of all good and Father of all spirits, we thank Thee for the many privileges and blessings Thou dost vouchsafe to us. We would ever remember Thy loving kindness and tender mercy. If we accept Thy teachings, we know that we shall find fullness of joy and pleasures that will be eternal. We pray that Thy light and Thy truth may lead us to Thee, and that we may drink of the fount whose waters give true life to all who partake. Imbue our souls with Christian love. May we delight in Thy law; and, we pray Thee, incline our minds to meditate upon Thine attributes, and bring us into continual communion with Thy spirit. Amen.

FEBRUARY EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I EXHORT, therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty: for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. —I. Tim. ii: 1–6. By grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.—Eph. ii: 5, 8. Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.—II. Tim. i: 9.

PRAYER.

O LORD our Father, source of all light and truth, who didst send Thy son Jesus Christ into the world, that the world through him might be saved: grant, we beseech Thee, that the light of his doctrine and life may shine into our hearts, and dispel our darkness, and direct our steps, and lead us at last to the unspeakable glories and felicities of Thy heavenly kingdom. Amen.

FEBRUARY NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.—Rom. iii: 23, 24. Waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.—Rom. viii: 23. The son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.—Matt. xx: 28. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.—Isa. xxxv: 10.

PRAYER.

OUR God and Father, we beseech Thee mercifully to receive our prayers as we call upon Thee; and grant that we may both perceive and know what things we ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

MAKE a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.—Ps. c: 1-5. Therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe.—I. Tim. 4: 10.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who hast endowed us with all our powers of body and mind, and from whom we receive every blessing suited to our wants; we devoutly thank Thee for our physical senses, for our mental and moral powers, for all the duties Thou requirest of us, and that they are designed for our good, adapted to our moral nature, and constitute our highest enjoyment. We thank Thee for all domestic joys, for our lot in a land of freedom, of good and wholesome laws, which guard our lives, our characters, and secure to us the fruits of our labor, and for Thine unspeakable gift to our whole race, in the Gospel of Thy son; a light to our feet and a lamp to our path; a full commendation of Thy paternal love to man. We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed to us, through this gift, the forgiveness of our errors and wrongs; and taught us to forgive all who harm or injure us. We thank Thee for the glorious hope of immortality brought to light by Thy son, in whose name we would pray for all good. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage. He retaineth not his anger forever, because he delighteth in mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.—Micah vii: 18, 19. I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.—Heb. viii: 12. He forgiveth all thine iniquities; he healeth all thy diseases.—Ps. ciii: 3. I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.—Jer. xxxiii: 8. In whom we have redemption, through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.—Eph. i: 7.

PRAYER.

FATHER Almighty, who dost govern all things in heaven and in earth: let the light of Thy holy word so shine into our thoughts, that our souls may find the peace which passeth all understanding; and do Thou so move our hearts by the spirit of devotion, that our lives may continually show forth Thy praise. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THOU coverest thyself with light as with a garment: and stretchest out the heavens like a curtain.—Ps. civ: 2. Light is sown for the righteous, and gladness for the upright in heart.—Ps. xcvii: 11. Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness. —Ps. cxii: 4. For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted which did put all things under him. And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.—I. Cor. xv: 27, 28.

PRAYER.—WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

O LORD, Thou art our Father, Thou art a refuge for the oppressed in times of trouble; and they that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee, for Thou, Lord, dost not forsake them that seek Thee. Thou hast made the wise to shine as the brightness of the firmament, and we would remember him who was raised up as a leader of this people, in the dark and perilous day. Thy mighty power was upon him, out of weakness making him strong, that our free institutions might be established in truth and equity; and reverence and gratitude have enrolled his name in the imperishable annals of the just. Mercifully grant that the virtues we honor in our thoughts, may be honored in our lives; and while we garnish the sepulchres of the prophets, and keep the righteous in everlasting remembrance, may our thankfulness and endeavor be centred in the guidance and the blessing of the Lord of Hosts. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing to them their trespasses.—II. Cor. v: 19. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled unto God, much more being reconciled we shall be saved by his life.—Rom. v: 10. You that were sometime alienated, and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.—Col. i: 21. And that he might reconcile both [Jews and Gentiles] unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby; and came and preached peace to you which were afar of, and to them that were nigh.—Eph. ii: 16, 17. Behold what manner of love hath the Father bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.—I. John iii: 1. Beloved, now are we the sons of God; and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.—I. John iii: 2. If children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ.—Rom. viii: 17.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we thank Thee for the gift of the compassionate Savior! We would welcome him to our hearts. We bless Thee for the divine goodness he has brought from heaven; for the souls he has warmed with love to God; for the efforts of divine philanthropy which he has inspired; and for that hope of a pure, celestial life, through which his disciples triumph over death. Benevolent Savior! Inspirer of goodness! We offer Thee continual tributes of affectionate gratitude on earth; and we hope to know, to love, to resemble and to approach Thee more nearly and more worthily in heaven. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field; which indeed is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. Again: the kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.—Matt. xiii: 31–33. Again: the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in the field; the which when a man has found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again: the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchantman, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.—Matt. xiii: 44–46.

PRAYER.

TO us, O Father, belong shame and confusion, because we have sinned against Thee; but to Thee belong mercies and forgiveness. Turn unto us, as we utter the cry of penitence. Grant that we be humble, that we may watch against temptation, and be so strengthened by Thy favor, that hereafter we may serve Thee in newness of life. And to Thee shall be given unceasing praise. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits, that blindness in part is happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn ungodliness away from Jacob; for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.—Rom. xi: 25–27. As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.—Rom. xiv: 11. Wherefore God also hath highly exhalted him, and given him a name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.—Phil. ii: 9–11.

PRAYER.

O GOD our Father, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright; grant to us such strength and protection as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO is my neighbor? And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment, and wounded him, and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him, and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him, and went to him, and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own beast, and brought him to an inn, and took care of him. And on the morrow when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him: and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbor unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.—Luke x: 29–37.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, whose blessed son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil, and make us the sons of God and heirs of eternal life; grant us, we beseech Thee, that having this hope, we may purify ourselves, even as he is pure; that when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where, with Thee, O Father, he liveth and reigneth, world without end. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW the Lord had said unto Abraham, I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee; and I will bless them that bless thee; and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.—Gen. xii: 1-3. And the Angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time and said, In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed: because thou hast obeyed my voice.—Gen. xxii: 15-18. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.—Acts iii: 25, 26. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him.—Dan. vii: 14. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee.—Rev. xv: 4. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.—I. John ii: 1. And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.—I. John ii: 2.

PRAYER.

DIVINE Parent! We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee for Thy great goodness. O Lord God, Heavenly King, God the Father Almighty! that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us! Thou that takest away the grief of the heart, Thy peace be upon us! Thou that hearest always the prayer of the heart, receive our prayer! Thou that rulest with Thy strong hand, O God, our Father, defend us! For Thou only art mighty; Thou only art the Lord. Give us of Thy holy spirit; give us Thy blessing, O God, our Father evermore. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.—Matt. ii: 1, 2, 10. And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.—Mark i: 9–12. We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the son to be the Savior of the world.—I. John iv. 14.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS God and Father, we thank Thee for all the blessings we have received from Thy bountiful hand: and also for the bitter experiences which Thou hast turned to sweetness. We adore Thy holy providence which observes the least things, numbering the hairs of our heads, and watching over the raven and the sparrow. Trustful and grateful, we give ourselves up to Thy fatherly keeping and guidance; and would pray, as Thy beloved son hath taught us, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so also on earth, now and always. Amen.

FEBRUARY TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ON the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour: and he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, and saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of four-footed beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean. And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call thou not common. This was done thrice; and the vessel was received up again into heaven.—Acts x. 9–16.

PRAYER.

HIGH and holy Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have gone too much in the way of our own hearts. We have sinned against Thy holy laws. We have not done those things we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But our help is in Thee. We are weak and need Thine aid. Grant us Thy peace, that we may walk in the light. We pray Thee to forgive all our sins, and grant that from this time forth we may serve Thee all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

March.

O yet we trust that somehow good
Will be the final goal of ill,
To pangs of nature, sins of will,
Defects of doubt, and taint of blood;

That nothing walks with aimless feet;
That not one life shall be destroyed,
Or cast as rubbish to the void,
When God hath made the pile complete.

Behold, I know not anything;
I can but trust that good shall fall
At last, far off, at last, to all,
And every Winter change to Spring.

—prayer,
A breath that fleets beyond this iron world,
And touches Him that made it.

MARCH FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ALL that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.—John vi: 37–40. It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. —John vi: 45–47. And this is life eternal, to know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.—John xvii: 3.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

MARCH SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord, he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.—John xi: 25, 26. As we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.—I. Cor. xv: 49; 53–55; 57.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by Thy holy spirit, that we may more truly love Thee. Assist us in all things with Thy most gracious favor, and further us with Thy continual help; that all our works, begun, continued, and ended in Thee, may glorify Thy holy name, and finally, by Thy mercy, bestow upon us everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

JUDGE not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how will thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye: and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.—Matt. vii: 1-5. And it came to pass when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine. For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.—Matt. vii: 28, 29.

PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Father of our spirits, and giver of every good and perfect gift; we desire to offer unto Thee that adoration which a just sense of Thy goodness inspires. Thy kindness towards us is manifest in all the relations of life, in all the duties Thou hast enjoined, in all the labors, physical, mental and moral, which are requisite to our happiness; and in all the afflictions and chastisements with which we are visited. And we sincerely pray that we may possess in our hearts, and be enabled to exhibit in our lives, a measure of the spirit of kindness and good will towards all men, which was ever displayed in the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; that, being like him, we may enjoy that peace of mind which is dearer than all things else. Wilt Thou, Father, imbue our hearts more and more with Thy love, that we may glorify Thee in all things. Amen.

MARCH FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SAY to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as a hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called, The way of holiness: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.—Isa. xxxv: 4–8; 10. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all. O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out. Of him, and through him, and to him are all things.—Rom. xi: 32, 33.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, blessed for ever: While the thought of Thy continual goodness awakens within us the rejoicing of praise, may a sense of our infirmity subdue us into the humility of prayer. Let the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer. Amen.

MARCH FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ALL things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.—Matt. vii: 12–14. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.—Rom. viii: 34. I count not myself to have apprehended, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.—Phil. iii: 13, 14.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting Father, who hatest nothing that Thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins, and acknowledging our unworthiness, may obtain of Thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR as many as are led by the spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God. And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.—Rom. viii: 14–18. God is not a man that he should lie, neither the son of man that he should repent. Hath he said and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken and shall he not make it good?—Num. xxiii: 19.

PRAYER.

THOU rulest over all things, O God! with the glory of a Father. We pray Thee help Thy children, whom Thou dost redeem with Thy most patient love. Grant them to be numbered with thy saints in glory everlasting. O save us, and bless our heritage! Govern us, and lift us up for ever! Day by day we magnify Thee; and we worship Thy name, world without end. Vouchsafe to keep us this day without sin! O Lord! Thy peace and Thy blessing be upon us, as our trust is in Thee! Amen.

MARCH SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN went the Pharisees, and took counsel how they might entangle him in his talk, and they sent out unto him some of their disciples, with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men. Tell us, therefore, what thou thinkest: Is it lawful to give tribute unto Cæsar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites? Show me the tribute-money. And they brought him a penny. And he saith unto them, Whose image and superscription is this? They say unto him, Cæsar's. Then saith he unto them, Render, therefore, unto Cæsar, the things which are Cæsar's, and unto God the things which are God's. And they could not take hold of his words before the people: and they marvelled at his answer, and held their peace, and went their way.—Matt. xxii: 16–22.

PRAYER.

MANIFOLD are Thy witnesses, O Father, and the angels of Thy invisible presence, else had we never known Thee. Thou unsealest the light for all that live, and lookest through the doors of the shadow of death. Thou seest the end from the beginning, and weavest the ages as a work upon the loom. Thou goest by us, and we see Thee not; Thou passest on, also, and we perceive Thee not. Hadst Thou not remembered our low estate, we had been in darkness and the shadow of death, but the firmament declareth Thy glory; the prophets proclaim Thy judgments; the righteous wonder at Thy law in their hearts; and the songs of Zion make melody to Thee. Teach us to praise Thee with all our hearts. Amen.

MARCH EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ASK, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. What man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?—Matt. vii: 7-11. And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen, through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.—Gal. iii: 8. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, and to seeds as of many; but, as of one, and to thy seed, which is Christ.—Gal. iii: 16.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who, of Thy great mercy, hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who, with hearty repentance and true faith, turn unto Thee; have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

YE have heard that it hath been said, thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that despitefully use you and persecute you: that ye may be the children of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.—Matt. v: 43–46. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.—Matt. v: 16. All things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.—Matt. vii: 12. In my Father's house are many mansions; I go to prepare a place for you; that where I am, there ye may be also.—John xiv: 2, 3.

PRAYER.

THOU alone, O Father, art great and good. Thou alone art holy. Thou sittest in the heaven of heavens. Before Thee the angels veil their faces, and the heavens are not clean in Thy sight. We are weak; and need Thy gracious arm to lean upon. We are sinful, and our only help is in Thee. O Lord, open Thou our eyes, that we may see not only where we are, but where we ought to be. We pray Thee to help us this day. Guard us from all that can do us harm. Help us to feel that we are not our own, but Thine. Grant, Lord, that we may have a clear sense of what Christ has done for us. Teach us to look to him, to see his holy life, and to live as he did. May we show how much we love Thee, by walking in his ways. We ask it in his name. Amen.

MARCH TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God.—Rom. viii: 24-28. The Lord of hosts hath sworn, saying, surely as I have thought, so shall it come to pass; and as I have purposed so shall it stand—for the Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? And his hand is stretched out and who shall turn it back?—Isa. xiv: 24-27. I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.—Isa. xlvi: 11.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who doest good unto all Thy creatures, and desirest not the death of the transgressor, but would have him turn from his wickedness and live, we confess our sins before Thee. We are unworthy to be called Thy children; make us Thy servants, we pray Thee. We rejoice in Thy unchanging love, that meets us in all our imperfections, and in thy compassion which visits us, in spite of our sins. O Father, forgive us, and help us to rejoice in Thy voice of welcome home to Thee, and to obey Thee with a cheerful spirit. Amen.

MARCH ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old: yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread. He is ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed is blessed. Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.—Ps. xxxvii: 23-27; 37. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.—Matt. v: 6.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, we are Thy dependent children, and realize how much we require Thy guardian care, and how constantly we need to be reassured of Thy great love for us. May we find in Thee true rest for our spirits. May we bear Thy yoke, and feel all burdens light that Thou dost impose upon us. May we be meek and gentle in spirit; satisfy us, O Father, when we hunger and thirst for Thy favor; make us merciful, and may purity dwell in our hearts; may we be peacemakers, and ever live the great truths of Thy gospel. We ask all, as Christian disciples. Amen.

MARCH TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IN Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; behold I have done according to thy word: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee.—I. Kings. iii: 5–12.

PRAYER.

ETERNAL Father, fill our souls, we beseech Thee, with a deep sense of the excellences of spiritual and heavenly things, that, our affections being weaned from the vanities of the world and the false allurements of sin, we may, with clear resolutions and a free spirit, have our conversation in heaven; remembering that we are but pilgrims and strangers here, and seeking a country, even that blessed home which awaits us across the river, that eternal home, where the smile of the Father is the life and the joy of the soul. **Amen.**

MARCH THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHOSOEVER shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only, in the name of a disciple, verily, I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.—Matt. x: 42. Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him, shall never thirst; the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water, springing up into everlasting life.—John iv: 14. I will give unto him that is athirst, of the fountain of the water of life, freely.—Rev. xxi: 6. The earth is full of goodness of the Lord.—Ps. xxxiii: 5. The Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.—Rev. vii: 17.

PRAYER.

ALL-BOUNTIFUL Father, help us to be thankful that our lives are spared to behold the light of this day, and to approach this altar. All we enjoy is Thy gift; and we pray that we may be led to think more of Thy goodness, and to remember Thee in all our enjoyments. Make us feel the value of religion, and the necessity of living under its influence. May it sanctify our relations to each other, and render us kind and faithful. Forbid that we should ever neglect the means of grace, or suffer the light of truth to go out in our hearts. Therein may love abide, and peace remain, and righteousness be built up. We ask all in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom shall be given unto Thee all praise. Amen.

MARCH FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HAVING made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will; that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ: in whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.—Eph. i: 9–14. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.—John xiv: 8–11.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, source and end of all being: May our first thoughts, and our last thoughts be of Thee; and while we hear Thy word, and rejoice that Thy testimonies are very sure, may we feel and know that holiness becometh Thy children, and may grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus, abide with us always. Amen.

MARCH FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

OWE no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law. For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.—Rom. xiii: 8–10. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ (by grace ye are saved).—Eph. ii: 4, 5.

PRAYER.

ALL-SEEING God, and all-loving Father, who dwellest in the midst of light, in whose holy presence even the angels are veiled: we praise Thee that the justice which condemns, is magnified by the mercy which redeems, and that all Thy perfections meet and are glorified in Thine infinite and everlasting love. We praise Thee that Thy law is honored in the earth, by many souls in generous sentiments, by many lives in noble deeds, and that the church of the Redeemer is enlarging the triumph of righteousness and charity. We praise Thee for the prophecy that the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of the Lord and of his Christ; and most heartily we pray, Thy kingdom come, O Lord our God, in all hearts, and may it be illustrated in all lives, through Christ. Amen.

MARCH SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village: and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word. But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: but one thing is needful; and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.—Luke x: 38–42.

PRAYER.

DEAR Father, may we be blameless and pure, as children of Thine, holding fast the word of life. May we not think we are already perfect, but forgetting the things behind, may we reach forth to the things which are before. May we rejoice in the Lord. May we do whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is virtuous and praiseworthy, and thus honor and glorify Thee. Amen.

MARCH SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O Lord, correct me but with judgment; not in thine anger, lest thou bring me to nothing.—Jer. x: 23, 24. To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants, the prophets.—Dan. ix: 9, 10. And I will put enmity between thee (the serpent) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel.—Gen. iii: 15. In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten son into the world that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins.—I. John iv: 9, 10.

PRAYER.

O THOU Fountain of all goodness, accept the prayers which we this day fervently offer at the footstool of Thy throne. May we be always as ready to acknowledge and use Thy gracious gifts as we are to ask them in the time of our need. Cast out from us all evil, and work in us a fullness of holiness, of wisdom, and spiritual understanding; that, increasing in the knowledge of Thee, we may be fruitful in every good work, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

MARCH EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

UPON the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments; and as they were afraid, and bowed their faces to the earth, they said unto them: Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen.—Luke xxiv: 1–6. Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.—I. Cor. xv: 20. Christ being raised from the dead, dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.—Rom. vi: 9.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself, saying, Surely, blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; and being fully persuaded, that what he had promised he was able also to perform. For men verily swear by the greater; and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: that by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,and which entereth into that within the veil.—Heb.vi: 10–19.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given us grace at this time, to make our supplications unto Thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt grant their requests; fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of our hearts, as may be most expedient for us, granting us in this world knowledge of Thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

MARCH TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen, for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.—II. Cor. iv: 17. For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven, if so be that being clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened; not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.—II. Cor. v: 1-4. Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God: and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.—I. John iv: 7.

PRAYER.

FATHER of Lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning: mercifully awaken our hearts into a living sense of the favors we have received at Thy hands. Let it not be in vain that we meditate upon the tokens of Thy superabounding love. As Thy mercies pass in review before us, give unto them, we beseech Thee, the tongues of angels, that they may plead with our forgetful souls, and bring us through self-rebuke into godly sorrow and divine love. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE winter is past. The rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth. The time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land. The fig-tree putteth forth her green figs; and the vines with the tender grapes give a good smell.—Canticles iii: 11-13. He maketh grass to grow upon the mountains, and giveth the beast his food.—Ps. civ: 14. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it; the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.—Isa. xxxv: 1, 2.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, the preserver of our lives, and the giver of every good gift, we pray Thee to be with us in every scene of life. Teach us to know our duty in all things. May we do to others as we would have them do to us. May we wrong no one in word or deed. May we be just and true in all things. May we bear no evil thought in our hearts. May we guard our hands that they do no wrong, and our tongues that they speak no guile. And may we be content with our lot and portion in life. And let it be our aim to build up Thy cause in the world. Lead us in the right way, that we may run into no folly. And may we so serve Thee on earth, that we may not have lived in vain. And when Thou shalt have done with us here, take us to dwell with Thee in heaven. We ask it through Christ. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE Lord bless thee, and keep thee: the Lord make his face shine upon thee: the Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.—Num. vi: 24, 25, 26. And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God.—Deut. xxviii: 2. Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed: and make you a new heart and a new spirit.—Ezek. xviii: 31. And this is the record of John, When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, I am not the Christ. And they asked him, What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that Prophet? And he answered, No. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? that we may give an answer to them that sent us. What sayest thou of thyself? He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.—John i: 19–23.

PRAYER.

BOUNTIFUL Father, the eyes of all wait upon Thee, and Thou givest them their meat in due season. Grant that we may have grateful hearts for the provisions of Thy hand, and let them nourish our frail bodies, that we may have strength to pursue our respective avocations worthily and well. Keep us in Thy love, forgive our sins, and save us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.—Luke iv: 14–21.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we thank Thee that Thou didst send Thy son, Jesus Christ, to tell us of the mansions above, where Thy children live with Thee forever; that our souls shall live, though these bodies perish, and that we go hence to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away. Help us, we beseech Thee, to forsake every sin, every evil thought and feeling, that when death shall come, we may be ready for our home on high. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

AFTER this manner, therefore, pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.—Matt. vi: 9–15.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, who art the Father of Mercies: enable us sincerely and heartily to pray for all mankind. For all in authority, that they may seek the honor which cometh only from Thee: for all sincere worshippers, that they may see Thy glory in the face of the Redeemer, and know him to be the way, and the truth, and the life: for the unbelieving and the heedless, that a living coal from the altar may touch their lips, and refine their souls into glowing love: for the corrupt and the selfish, that the rod of judgment may become the staff of Thy merciful help: for the afflicted and the oppressed, that they may be comforted and redeemed, and come up out of great tribulation with robes whiter than snow: and for all men, everywhere, that they may be brought to that knowledge of Thee which is eternal life, and evermore glorify Thy holy name. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IF any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear. With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath. And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.—Mark iv: 23–28.

PRAYER.

O GOD, the Creator, Preserver and Father of all mankind, we pray for all sorts and conditions of men, that Thy ways may be known unto them, Thy saving health unto all nations. May all people be led into the way of truth, and live in unity of spirit and the bond of peace. May all mankind of every faith be united in righteousness. Bless all the afflicted, comfort the suffering, deliver the oppressed, and make one family in heaven of all the nations, families and kindreds of the earth, in Thine own time and way. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BEHOLD, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty.—Job v: 17. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.—Deut. viii: 5. For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.—Lam. iii: 33. Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient.—James v: 7, 8. We glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope.—Rom. v: 3, 4. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings,saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.—Rev. xix: 6.

PRAYER.

THOU Source of consolation, as Thou art the Father of all mankind, by Thy gracious promises, revealed in Thy holy word, we are encouraged to come to Thee, and, in sincerity of heart and with childlike trust, to offer unto Thee our prayers and supplications, that our faith may be enlarged, our joy increased, and our spiritual strength renewed. Wilt Thou, O God, lift upon us the light of Thy countenance, and fill our hearts with peace. May that fear which hath restraint be entirely banished from our minds, that we may be made perfect in love, and cherish that reverence which is the beginning of all true wisdom. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET every one of us please his neighbor for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself.—Rom. xv: 2, 3. Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.—James ii: 22, 26. The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.—Gal. v: 22, 23. I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.—Eph. iii: 14, 15. The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.—Rom. xiv: 17. Ye shall be holy for I the Lord your God am holy.—Lev. xix: 2. Holy, holy, holy Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.--Rev. iv: 8.

PRAYER.

MAKE us, O Father, Thy obedient children, even as Christ was obedient. As we have a life from the earth, so may we have a life from the heavens. As by the first we have our kindred to man and to nature, so by the second may we recognize our alliance with spiritual things. May we have the consciousness of a spiritual birth, the spirit of truth working and revealing in us Thy presence, and power, and fullness. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much; and he that is unjust in the least, is unjust also in much.—Luke xvi: 10. He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart, he shall receive the blessing from the Lord.—Ps. xxiv: 4, 5. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.—Heb. xii: 11. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes.—Ps. cxviii: 8, 9. He doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?—Dan. iv: 35.

PRAYER.

WE praise Thee, O our Father, that Thy goodness knows neither measure nor end. In all worlds, and through all being, Thine eternal spirit is at work, fulfilling Thy will; and truth and grace, and justice and mercy, and purpose and promise, shall be glorified together in the grand and final consummation. From Thee, O Lord, is the inspiration of prayer, answered above in unutterable tenderness, and returned upon the believing heart in the joy of the Comforter. Lift Thou the veil from the face of the prayerful who believe not, that they may see the rainbow round about the throne. Lift upon them the light of Thy countenance, and establish within them the covenant of peace. Amen.

MARCH TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHY dost thou call me good? None is good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and thy mother.—Mark x: 18, 19. Be ye therefore perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.—Matt. v: 48. Which commandment is first of all? The first is, Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. The second is this: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is no other commandment greater than these. —Mark xii: 28–31.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, from whom cometh every good and every perfect gift, bestow Thy favors upon us according to Thy holy designs in our creation. May we resist temptation, and fall into no sin; may we seek Thee, and find strength in doing Thy will. May we have fellowship in Christ, and be delivered from error and all uncharitableness. May love reign in our hearts continually. Amen.

MARCH THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.—I. Cor. x: 13. But he is in one mind, and who can turn him? and what his soul desireth, even that he doeth.—Job xxiii: 13. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure.—Phil. ii: 12, 13. For what if some did not believe? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?—Rom. iii: 3. God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar.—Rom. iii: 6. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.—Ps. cxxx: 6.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, the strength of all them that put their trust in Thee: mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal natures we can do no good thing without Thee, grant us the help of Thy grace, that in keeping of Thy commandments we may please Thee both in will and deed, after the example of Jesus Christ, Thy well-beloved son. Amen.

MARCH THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ONLY believe.—My burden is light.—Because I live, ye shall live also.—I am the resurrection and the life.—I am the good shepherd and know my sheep.—If a man love me, he will keep my words.—Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more.—Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.—If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink.—Herein is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit.—These things which are impossible with men are possible with God.—Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.—Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.—Words of Jesus.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven: in Thy holy presence we bow, and to Thee lift up our hearts. We thank Thee for the gift of Thy son, our teacher, pattern and savior, for the pure, subduing and improving lesson of his life and death. We bless Thee that though he possessed endowments superior to those of man, and was capable of avoiding the severest trials, and securing to himself the richest and most desirable of earth's blessings, yet he came into our world to endure and suffer for man, and that in his hour of gloom, agony and death he manifested the spirit of heaven, and gave tokens of compassion and benevolence, never before witnessed. O most holy Parent, may we, Thy frail and erring children, wheresoever we may be placed, be inclined, by the character of our Redeemer, so perfectly displayed on the mount of crucifixion, to go about doing good in his spirit, and in his name. Amen.

April.

Doubt and trouble, fear and pain,
And anguish, all are sorrows vain;
And death itself shall not remain,

And we, on divers shores now cast,
Shall meet, our perilous voyage past,
All in our Father's home at last.

In all eternity
No tone can be so sweet,
As where man's heart with God
In unison doth beat.

The light of love is round His feet,
His paths are never dim;
And He comes nigh to us when we
Dare to draw nigh to Him.

APRIL FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.—Rom. viii: 35–39. Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honor and power; for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.—Rev. iv: 11.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

APRIL SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet? John answered them, saying, I baptize with water: but there standeth one among you, whom ye know not; he it is, who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoe's latchet I am not worthy to unloose. The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the son of God.—John i: 25-34.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we bow before Thee, praying that Thou wouldst grant us, according to the riches of Thy goodness, to be strengthened in motive and will by Thy spirit, having Christ formed within us, the hope of glory, that being rooted and grounded in love, we may be able to comprehend Thy love, which passeth knowledge, and be filled with Thy fullness. Amen.

APRIL THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: but the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away. For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.—James i: 9–11. He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker, but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor.—Prov. xiv: 31. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish: and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth. He shall have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.—Ps. lxxii: 6–8.

PRAYER.

WE adore Thee as the Father of all mercies, and the God of all grace. Thy watchful care hath never been withdrawn from us; Thy loving favor and kindness Thou hast not withheld. In the free and full enjoyment of Thy rich and exhaustless gifts hast Thou permitted us to live. What, O Lord, shall we render unto Thee for that mercy which hath always strengthened and cheered us. May we exercise towards Thee that filial affection which it becometh Thy children ever to cherish. Give us, we pray, exalted conceptions of Thy character, that we may aspire after that purity of heart, and cultivate that love of moral beauty, which shall enable us to become obedient children. Help us to feel, O God, that we have none in heaven but Thee, and help us to desire none on earth beside Thee, that our affections may thus become elevated, and our hearts rendered more and more pure. Amen.

APRIL FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHOSOEVER believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the son of God? He that hath the son hath life; and he that hath not the son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.—I. John v: 1–5; 12–15.

PRAYER.

DEAR Father, we, Thy dependent children, are poor, and weak, and sinful; but none of us are so poor but Thy love can make us rich; none are so weak but Thy love can give us strength; none are so sinful but Thy love will abound over all. Thou art folding us continually in Thine everlasting arms, and in all our trials, in all our griefs, in all our sorrows, Thou dost pity us as a father pitieth his children. As Thou dost love us, so help us to love Thee, and show our love by obedient service. Draw us very near to Thee, and keep us there until our own hearts shall beat responsive to Thine. Amen.

APRIL FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie. And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself. Then went in also that other disciple which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed. For as yet they knew not the Scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.—John xx: 1-9.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, aid us in all our thoughts and actions by Thy holy spirit, and so assist us by Thy grace, that all our works may be begun, continued and ended in Thee; and we glorify Thy holy name by obtaining eternal life. The Lord our God be with us, and show kindness and truth unto us, and lead us in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Amen.

APRIL SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.—John xx: 25-29.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, help us to be strong in Thee, and in the power of Thy might; to take up the whole armor of God, that we may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand, girded with truth, having on the breast-plate of righteousness, and our feet shod with the gospel of peace; taking the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit. May we pray at all times in the spirit; to this end may we watch, that we may have confidence to speak and act the truth, and to Thee shall be all the praise. Amen.

APRIL SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WILL the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favorable no more? Is his mercy clean gone forever? doth his promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. And I said, This is my infirmity: but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.—Ps. lxvii: 7-10. For he says, The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger forever.—Ps. ciii: 8, 9. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favor is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.—Ps. xxx: 5. If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquities with stripes, nevertheless my loving kindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.—Ps. lxxxix: 30-33.

PRAYER.

WE praise Thee, O our God, for the revelation that Thou art our Father, and that all we are brethren. We praise Thee that all doubt and wrath are rebuked by the one fatherhood and the one brotherhood, and that all vengeful fires are quenched in the grace and the peace of a Savior's love. May the reason that seeks Thee in science, and finds Thee in the realm of nature, prayerfully pass behind the veil in the temple of Thy glory, and bow down and worship Thee at the mercy-seat of the Redeemer. Amen.

APRIL EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE that hath no rule over his own spirit, is like a city that is broken down and without walls.—Prov: xxv. 28. Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth.—Prov. xxiv: 17. Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty: and before honor is humility.—Prov. xv: 33. Let us keep the feast not with the old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.—I. Cor. v: 8.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our heavenly Father, we come confidingly to Thee, because we know that Thou art good. We know that Thou art almighty; we know that Thou art all-wise; we know that Thou art omnipresent; but we are most thankful that Thou art almighty in love as in power; that Thy wisdom is the wisdom of love; and as boundless as is Thy presence, so boundless is Thy love to the children of men. If we ascend into heaven, Thy love is there; if we make our bed in the grave, Thy love is there; if we take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, Thy love is still there. Surely, Thy goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives, and Thy love will make our cup to run over with blessings evermore. Amen.

APRIL NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children. My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?—Heb. xii: 5-7. We have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness, unto them which are exercised thereby.—Heb. xii: 9-11.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, from whom all good things come; grant to us, Thy servants, that by Thy holy inspiration we may think those things that are good, and by Thy merciful guiding may perform the same, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

APRIL TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, and the doors shall be shut in the streets; when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond-tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets. Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel be broken at the cistern; then shall the dust return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.—Eccl. xii: 3–7.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we thank Thee for life, and breath, and all things; for the seasons as they roll, with all the blessings they bring; for the fruits of the earth; for the homes in which we live; for our country, and the freedom we enjoy; for the gladness with which Thou fillest our hearts; for the truth and righteousness preached by Jesus and his apostles; for the nature which Thou gavest us; and for the hope of immortal life, and purity, and peace, finally to be shared by all Thy children. Amen.

APRIL ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this? And the multitude said, This is Jesus, the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased, and said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea, have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?—Matt. xxi: 10, 11, 14–16. But Zion said, the Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. Can a woman forget her nursing child? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee. —Isa. xlix: 14, 15.

PRAYER.

GOD of all goodness, and Father of all souls, while angels bow before Thy throne in heaven, we, Thy needy children in the earth, would approach Thee in the name of Jesus Christ. We worship Thee as the giver of every good and perfect gift, our righteousness and strength. Enable us to realize, O our Father, how great is our indebtedness for the gifts of life and health; for friendship and for friends; for the Bible with its promises and hopes; for Jesus Christ, our Master and Redeemer, and for the light of immortality that dissipates the darkness and dread of the grave. What can we render unto Thee, O God of our salvation, for all these high and precious gifts? May we offer to-day the sincere worship of our hearts. Forgive us all our sins, and keep us ever in Thy love; and to Thee shall be ascribed praise and dominion forevermore. Amen.

APRIL TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I AM the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit, he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit: so shall ye be my disciples. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father, I have made known unto you. These things I command you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.—John xv: 1-12.

PRAYER.

UNTO Thee, O Father, are due the gratitude and praise of every heart. Thou art the king eternal who rulest over all worlds; and all souls are Thy rightful subjects. Thou hast taught us in Thy word that Thy kingdom is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Thy throne is in every heart; it is Thy right to reign, and our duty to obey. Give unto us, we pray Thee, hearts to welcome the reign of truth. May it purify our affections, direct our thoughts towards heavenly things, sanctify all our desires and pursuits, and lead us to Thee. Amen.

APRIL THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth; but when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches, so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.—Matt. xiii: 31–33. And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.—Mark iv: 26–32.

PRAYER.

HELP us, Father, to receive Thy word into good and honest hearts, that it may bring forth fruit in our lives. Give us Thy holy spirit, that we may be upright and loving. May the world learn the good news of Thy unfailing and impartial love. Forgive us our sins; deliver us from all evil; speak peace to our souls; give us what is good, and make us like Thy son as he resembled Thee. Amen.

APRIL FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THERE was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but he was sent to bear witness of that Light.—John i: 6–8. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only-begotten son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.—John iii: 18, 19. For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground which cannot be gathered up again, neither doth God respect any person, yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.—II. Sam. xiv: 14.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, Thou who art the fountain of life, and light, and everlasting love; we adore Thee as the author of all our blessings, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thou hast ministered to all our bodily and mental wants. Even when we have forgotten Thee, and wandered far from Thee in the paths of error and sin, Thou hast never forgotten nor forsaken us, but hast been kind unto us, even when we were evil and unthankful. Thou hast shielded us from dangers seen and unseen, and we are always the monuments of Thy preserving mercy. O Lord, unfold to us more and more the designs of Thy goodness, that we may give unto Thee the glory which is due unto Thy name. Instruct us in Thy providence. Thy goodness and mercy have followed us all the days of our lives. Give us faith to believe that they will follow us forever. Amen.

APRIL FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE day before Jesus was crucified was the first day of the feast of unleavened bread, when the passover must be killed. And his disciples made ready the passover. And when the even was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. Jesus said, Little children, yet a little while I am with you. A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another: as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. The Lord Jesus took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to the disciples, saying, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. And they all drank of it. And when they had sung a hymn, they went out unto the mount of Olives.—Luke xxii: 14–39.

PRAYER.

O THOU, who art the one God and Father of all, who art over all, and through all, and in us all, may we, through the unity of faith and knowledge, come to a fullness of manhood. By cleaving to truth in love, may we grow up unto a perfect body in Christ. May we be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and put on the new life which is of God, in righteousness, holiness and truth. May we speak the truth, every one with his neighbor, as we are members one of another. May all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil-speaking, with all malice, be put away from us; and may we be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God forgiveth us. May we be followers of God as dear children. Amen.

APRIL SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREBY are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature.—II. Pet. i: 4. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen.—II. Cor. i: 20. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.—Lam. iii: 26. I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plague: O grave, I will be thy destruction.—Hos. xiii: 14. And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. —Acts iii: 20, 21. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.—Heb. x: 35.

PRAYER.

LEAD us, O Father, to look to Thee for all that we want, and to pray for Thy blessing on all that we do. When we lie down to sleep, may we seek Thy protection, and put our trust in Thee. When we awake, may we be thankful for Thy guardian care through the night, and pray to Thee to guide us through the day. May we each day look to Thee for our daily bread, for the forgiveness of our sins, and for deliverance from temptation. And so, with the spirit of prayer always in our hearts, may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done in us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APRIL SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SO I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter. Wherefore I praised the dead which are already dead, more than the living which are yet alive.—Eccl. iv: 1, 2. Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God.—Jer. xxvi: 13. But thou art a God ready to pardon, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and of great kindness.—Neh. ix: 17. What doth the Lord thy God require of thee but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul.—Deut. x: 12. Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord.—Acts iii: 19.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, who alone canst bring the will and affections of man into harmony with Thine own: grant unto us that we may love whatever Thou commandest, and desire whatever Thou dost promise, that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are to be found. May the grace of God shine in our hearts; may His love lead us, and the peace of Christ possess our minds, and bless us with holy joy. Amen.

APRIL EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND the people asked John the Baptist, saying, What shall we do, then? He answereth, and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not, John answered, saying unto all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire. And many other things in his exhortation preached he unto the people.—Luke iii: 10-18.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven: Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Thou art the Father of all, the Judge of all, the Savior of all. With Thee is the fountain of life: from Thee all blessings flow: in Thee we live, and move, and have our being. Thy kingdom is over all: Thy power governs all: Thy glory is above all. Of Thee, and through Thee, and to Thee, are all things. Be Thine the dominion, and the might, and the praise. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

APRIL NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

KNOW ye therefore, that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee all nations of the earth shall be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.—Gal. iii: 7, 8, 9. And this I say, that the covenant that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, can not disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.—Gal. iii: 17. Now, it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him: but for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead. Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.—Rom. iv: 23–25. If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.—II. Tim. ii: 13.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, heavenly Father, for continued life, and health, and friends, and especially for the love Thou didst show to the world in sending Jesus, the friend of all. We thank Thee for his life of goodness, and purity, and faithfulness; for his words of truth and comfort, and for the privilege we have, through him, of coming nearer to Thee, our loving Father. And we pray for new blessings: for clean hands and new hearts; for minds free from vanity and wickedness; for the peace which comes from righteousness. May Thy spirit move within our hearts, so that evil may be driven from them, and goodness made all-powerful. May we indeed follow Thee as dear children, and walk in love, as Thou and Christ also have loved us. Amen.

APRIL TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.—Ps. xci: 1–16. My son, forget not my law, but let thine heart keep my commandments, for length of days and long life, and peace shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart: so shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.—Prov. iii: 1–4. Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord.—Eph. vi: 8.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our Father in heaven, for a multitude of mercies: for pleasures, and hopes, and pure affections; for a Savior and a heaven. We bless Thee for the word of Jesus, and the example he has set. We rejoice in the truth he taught, and the life he brought to light. We thank Thee for the good tidings he made known: for the news of Thy grace and almighty love: for his guidance into the way of peace. And, as we remember that Thine ear is open to the prayer of the obedient, while Thy face is against all evil, we pray for Thy help, that we may avoid all sin, and do only what is good in Thy sight. O, aid us to be just, and true, and loving; to remember Thy Fatherly affection; and to live in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

MOREOVER, when ye fast, be not as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily, I say unto you, they have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thy head and wash thy face; that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father, who is in secret; and thy Father, who seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.—Matt. vi: 16–18. Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin; for I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.—Ps. li: 1–7.

PRAYER.

LORD God all-powerful, and Father all-merciful, who hast brought us safely to the beginning of this day, protect us by Thy providence, that during the course of it we may not fall into sin, but that all our thoughts, words and actions, being directed by Thy holy grace, may tend to the accomplishment of Thy divine will; that during this life, and the eternity of the life to come, we may, through Thy divine assistance, be delivered and saved, O Savior of the world! who livest and reignest one God, world without end. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE Lord sent Nathan the prophet unto David the king. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, the other poor. The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: but the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. And there came a traveler unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the way-faring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the Lord liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the Lord God, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul, and gave thee the house of Israel and Judah, and if that had been too little, I would, moreover, have given unto thee such and such things. Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in his sight? Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house. And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the Lord.—II. Sam. xii: 1–13.

PRAYER.

FATHER Almighty, Thou who dwellest in the high and holy place, with him also who is of an humble and contrite spirit: enable us to come before Thee in the lowliness of worship, seeking the blessing of Thy merciful presence. The Lord bless us and keep us. May he cause his love to subdue every sinful feeling. May he cause his face to shine upon us, and give us peace and rest. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEN Jesus left Judea, and departed again into Galilee, he must needs go through Samaria. Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore being wearied with the journey sat thus by the well. It was about noon. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, who am a woman of Samaria? (For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.) Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who is it that saith to thee, Give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.—John iv: 2–14.

PRAYER.

GRANT to us, O Lord, our Father, we beseech Thee, the spirit to think and do always such things as are right; that we, who cannot do anything that is good without Thee, may by Thee be enabled to live according to Thy will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE woman of Samaria saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he. And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did. So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days. And many more believed because of his own word; and said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the savior of the world.—John iv: 15–26.

PRAYER.

PARENT of mercies, we would give thanks unto Thee, and sing praises to Thy name, O most high! And show forth Thy loving kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. For Thou, Lord, hast made us glad by Thy doings; in the works of Thy hands we greatly rejoice. How great are Thy works, O Lord! How deep Thy purposes! Lead us, O Lord, in Thy righteousness: make Thy path straight before us. For Thou, Lord, hast made us glad through Thy works; and we will rejoice in giving praise for the operations of Thy hands. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ASCRIBE ye greatness unto our God. He is the rock. His work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment; a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.—Deut. xxxii: 3, 4. And Jesus answered and said unto them, the children of this world marry, and are given in marriage; but they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection of the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage; neither can they die any more, for they are equal unto the angels, and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.—Luke xx: 34-36. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.—Eph. iv: 25, 26.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art the searcher of the hearts of Thy children, we pray that Thou wouldst grant us deliverance from every sinful desire, and the renewal of our souls by the inworking of Thy grace. Cleanse our thoughts by the inspiration of Thy spirit, that our souls may reflect all things divine. Create within us the likeness of Thy beloved son, that we may feel how "blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Daily may we strive for that inward grace which is the highest evidence of the reality of heavenly things, the ground of all our hopes, and our exceeding joy. Amen.

'PRIL TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED are those servants whom the Lord, when he cometh, shall find watching. In the world ye shall have tribulation; be of good cheer, I have overcome the world. Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the son. I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and my sister, and my mother. Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, who shall not receive manifold more in this present time and in the world to come, life everlasting.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

MOST gracious Father, we praise Thee for that revelation of Thy mercy, which enables us to come into Thy presence, recognizing Thee as our creator and ruler, and bountiful benefactor. We confess our disregard of Thy commands, and our indifference to Thy holy requisitions. Thou hast watched over us during every period of our lives; but we have forsaken Thee, and sinned against Thy holy name. Notwithstanding our wanderings, Thy mercy and Thy goodness fail not. O Father, we would devoutly praise Thee, that Thy ways are not our ways, that while we are unforgiving and unkind, Thou art ever forgiving and kind, that, although we have forsaken Thee, Thou hast not forsaken us. Bring us to love Thee as Thou lovest us, and Thine be all the praise. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHERE shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living. The depth saith, It is not in me; and the sea saith, It is not with me. It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx or the sapphire. The gold and the crystal cannot equal it; and the exchange of it shall not be for jewels of fine gold. No mention shall be made of coral or of pearls; for the price of wisdom is above rubies. Whence then cometh wisdom? and where is the place of understanding? God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. And unto man he saith, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. —Job xxviii: 12–28.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who didst send Thy beloved son into the world to seek and to save that which was lost: we beseech Thee to look favorably upon us, and forgive our offences. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. Make us more faithful to our own souls, to each other, and to Thee, through the guidance of him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THESE things I write unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him. And apply thy heart to understanding; yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; if thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

WE rejoice, most merciful Father, that Thy condescension and love are so great toward Thy children that, notwithstanding our sins and ingratitude, Thou hast encouraged our addresses to Thee, and promised gracious answers to our prayers. We would, therefore, with childlike confidence, filial fear and reverence, raise our thoughts to Thee. Enable us to realize that we are in Thy sacred presence, holding communion with a being of infinite wisdom, almighty power and perfect holiness; to whom all the purposes, desires and wants of the heart are known. May we worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Send Thy spirit into our souls, and may the sacred fire of divine love, burning upon the altar of our hearts, be continually increasing, and the incense of devotion and gratitude ever ascend to Thee, our God. We thank Thee, that Thou dost permit us to render thanks to Thy name, to ask Thy forgiveness, and bring to Thee the wants and the burdens of our souls. May we ever enjoy this blessed privilege, and by rightly improving it, drink in Thy spirit and assimilate our characters to Thine. Amen.

APRIL TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

TEACH me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein is my desire. Incline mine heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. O, turn away mine eyes lest they behold vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.—Ps. cxix: 33-37. Wherefore break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by showing mercy to the poor.—Dan. iv: 27.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, may we ever realize that Thou knowest all our thoughts and all our ways. Grant us Thine aid while we approach Thee, and may we give Thee our purest affections. We thank Thee for the unnumbered favors Thou hast bestowed upon us, temporal and spiritual. We rejoice that when there is no human ear to hear, nor eye to pity, we can come to Thee; that when storms and tempests beat upon us, we can call upon Thy name, and find that comfort which the world can neither impart nor take away. O, Father, we would come to Thee, not only when the cup of sorrow is given us to drink, but when prosperity smiles around us; for Thou art the fountain of pure and unfailing felicity. We adore Thee for the bright and beautiful manifestations Thou hast made of Thyself to the world. We see Thee in everything Thou hast formed, from the floating atom to the worlds of light and beauty that roll around Thy throne. Atoms of Thy creation, may we shine as stars, attracted to Thee by the influence of Thy son. Amen.

APRIL THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck: write them upon the table of thine heart.—Prov. iii: 3. And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have aught against any, that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.—Mark xi: 25. And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God? It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.—Luke xiii: 20, 21. The Father loveth the son, and hath given all things into his hands.—John iii: 35. Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins.—Matt. i: 21. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work.—II. Tim. ii: 21. Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience.—I. Tim. i: 5.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS Father and Friend! Help us to adore Thy perfections, to live in the light of Thy goodness, and to be thankful for all the mercies we constantly enjoy. Teach us, O Lord, to hunger and thirst after righteousness, to be filled with its blessing, and to be satisfied with heavenly joy. May we not only in health, but in sickness, not only in joy, but in sorrow, bow in submission to Thy will. Great teacher and fountain of wisdom, may we be Thy scholars; may we come as willing pupils to the feet of Jesus, that our hearts may be enriched with the virtues of his life, and the blessings of his word. Amen.

SPECIAL—EASTER.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre. Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them, They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and I know not where they have laid him. And she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away. Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master. Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.—John xx: 1, 2–11 –14–16–19, 20.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art bringing forth from the sleep and death of winter, the springing grass and the fragrant flowers, we bless Thee that Thou hast told us that the grave is the doorway of immortality, and that what we call Death, the angels call Immortality. We thank Thee that Thou didst send Thy son to reveal to us our endless existence, and that in his own person he demonstrated the truth he taught. May the life he lived on earth be reflected in our lives, so that we may begin, while here, the path that shall grow into the perfect day of holiness and happiness in heaven. Amen.

May.

O, make our home Thy sanctuary!
Come in to us, a friendly Guest;
And in our circle ever tarry,
Then shall we be forever blest.
And Thou, our house-mate, shall these walls
Transfigure into royal halls.

Ah, would thy heart but be
A manger for the birth,
Christ would once more become
A child upon the earth.

Sackcloth is a girdle good;
Fasting, it is angel's food;
Yet think not fast or prayer was given,
To make one step 'twixt earth and heaven.

MAY FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FINALLY, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another; love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; but sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear: for it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.—I. Pet. ii· 8–17.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

MAY SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHOSOEVER shall confess that Jesus is the son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.—John iv: 15-18. If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit? Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.—James ii: 15-17.

PRAYER.

GIVER of all good, and Father of all spirits, as we rejoice in the mercies that fill our life, may we gratefully remember Thee, the source of all our joy, and live to Thy glory while we partake of Thy bounty. Help us to use this world as not abusing it, and may all temporal prosperities minister to our spiritual welfare, and the upbuilding of Thy kingdom in the world. May our land be the abode of truth and freedom, and our hearts the homes of religion and peace. Amen.

MAY THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

EVERY one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.—John iii: 20, 21. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence towards God, and towards men.—Acts xxiv: 16. Make your ways and your doings good.—Jer. xviii: 11. Learn to do well.—Isa. j: 17. Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.—Prov. xx: 11. As for the pure, his work is right.—Prov. xxi: 8. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the son to be the Savior of the world.—I. John iv: 14.

PRAYER.

THINE, O Father, is the kingdom, and the power, and the victory, for all that is in heaven and in the earth is Thine. All that we have heard of Thee, is but a whisper of Thy greatness. All that we have seen of Thee, is but the dawn of Thy glory. All that we know of Thee, is but a prophecy of Thine exceeding kindness in the ages to come. How shall we utter all Thy praise, since even the power to praise Thee is among the multitude of Thy mercies! We bless Thee for the reason which giveth us dominion over Thy works, and for the reverence which ascribes all dominion to Thee. For the bounties of Thy providence, and for a sense of Thy goodness; for the sympathies and charities of life, for friendship and mutual love, for the fellowship of home and the communion of heaven, we bless and thank Thee, and praise Thy worthy name. Amen.

MAY FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WE know that whatsoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the son of God hath come, and hath given us an understanding that we may know him that is true; and we are in him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ.—I. John v: 18–20. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.—I. John iii: 4, 5. For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is eight souls were saved by water.—I. Pet. iii: 18–20. Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.—I. Pet. iv: 5, 6.

PRAYER.

O LORD God, our Father, in all our passage through this world, and our manifold concerns therein, suffer not our hearts to be too much set upon it, but always fix our eyes upon the blessed hope of everlasting life, that, as we go along, we may make all the things of this world to minister to that which is to come, and be careful to fit our souls for that pure and perfect bliss which Thou hast prepared for Thy children in the glories of Thy kingdom. Amen.

MAY FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

DEATH and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof. Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from trouble. Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer the strife ceaseth. It is an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. He that covereth a transgression seeketh love: but he that repeateth a matter separateth friends. Bread of deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth shall be filled with gravel. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a Friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Sundry Proverbs.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father, who hast given us grace at this time to make our supplications unto Thee; and hast promised that Thou wilt grant our requests; fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of Thy servants, as may be most expedient for us; granting us, through Jesus Christ, the knowledge of Thy truth, and life everlasting. Amen.

MAY SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BE not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter anything before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.—Eccles. v: 2. The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.—James' Epistle. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.—Matt. xxviii: 18. For our conversaation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.—Phil. iii: 20, 21. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to his name. —Heb. xiii: 15.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, we thank Thee for the mercy that is everlasting, and for the truth that endures to all generations. We praise Thee for Thy continual goodness, and rejoice that Thou dost reign over all people. We bless Thee that Thou hast made us souls, able to worship Thee, to thank Thee for all joy, to think of Thee as our Father, to trust in Thee, and to pray to Thee for all good. May we worship Thee in spirit, in truth, and in the beauty of holiness. May we seek to be like our Savior; obeying and following him all our days. Forgive us our transgressions, and enable us to enter into the life eternal. Amen.

MAY SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I KNOW thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.—Rev. iii: 1. And you hath he quickened who were dead in trespasses and sins.—Eph. ii: 1. That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.—Phil. iii: 10, 11. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. Yet if any man shall suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.—I. Pet. iv: 14, 16. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.—I. John ii: 17. He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.—John xiv: 12.

PRAYER.

HOW shall we thank Thee, O our Father, for the fountain of cleansing in the gospel of Thy grace! Thou art Thyself the fountain of living waters, opened to us through the channel of Christ the Rock, opened also in every true and believing heart, and the well of water, springing up into everlasting life, overflows into the river of salvation, widening into the shoreless ocean of Thy love. Make us sensible of its sublime realities and redeeming power, that we may worthily adore Thee, in purity of heart and righteousness of life. Let Thy loving kindness and Thy truth continually preserve us. Amen.

MAY EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

UNTO thee do I lift up mine eyes, O thou who dwellest in the heavens! The desire of my soul is to the remembrance of thy name, and with my spirit will I seek thee early. Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living; cause me to hear thy loving-kindness in the morning of life, for in thee do I trust. Thou art my light and my salvation. Open mine eyes that I may see wondrous things out of thy law. Make me to know the way in which I should walk, for unto thee do I lift up my soul. Thou art the guide of my youth: thy word have I hidden in my heart, that I may not sin against thee. It is a lamp unto my feet, and a light to my path. Thou art my helper and my hope: O satisfy me early with thy mercy, that I may rejoice and be glad all my days.—Sundry Proverbs.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we rejoice and trust in Thy merciful kindness, and thank Thee for all Thy benefits toward us. We bless Thee, because Thou hearest our supplications: because Thou givest us peace, when we call, with childlike hearts, upon Thee; because, when we sincerely ask it, Thou forgivest our sins. We praise Thee for the life of Jesus, who went about doing good; who set us an example of holy living; and who showed us, in his love and truth, the image of Thy love and truth. May we render to Thee, for all Thy benefits toward us, the praise of our lips, and the duty of our lives. May we have compassion for the sufferings and for the sorrows of our fellows, and show kindness, as we may have opportunity. May we seek the forgiveness of our sins, abhorring all that is evil, and cleaving to all that is good. May we love Thy son, our Savior, and follow him in all things. Amen.

MAY NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FORASMUCH then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.—I. Pet. iv: 1, 2; 6–10.

PRAYER.

OUR Father: we would ever rejoice before Thee, in the assurance that Thou art infinitely good, all-gracious and merciful. And we thank Thee that in expressing Thy great love to us and to the world, Thou hast ever employed the language of parental kindness. Thy gospel, O Lord, was peace on earth, and brought the tidings of good will. Even the reproofs administered to Thine erring and disobedient children are tempered by Thy divine mercy! May we learn the sweet and heavenly language which Thou hast ever employed, and may we acquire the spirit of benevolence by which Thy son was influenced when he gave up his life on the cross. And as we are permitted to reflect upon Thy love to us, may we form resolutions agreeable to Thy divine will. And while we profess to be grateful for the multitude of Thy mercies, may we be devoutly anxious to confer some lasting benefit upon our race. Amen.

MAY TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GIVE thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever.—I. Chron. xvi: 8, 34. Rejoice in the Lord, ye righteous; and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.—Ps. xcvii: 12. Surely the righteous shall give thanks unto thy name.—Ps. cxl: 13. What! shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?—Job ii: 10. All the works of the Lord are good: and he will give every needful thing in due season. So that a man cannot say, This is worse than that: for in time they shall all be well approved. And therefore praise ye the Lord with the whole heart and mouth, and bless the name of the Lord.—Eccl. xxxix: 33-35.

PRAYER.

FATHER of lights, with whom there is no variableness, and in whom there is no darkness at all, to Thee we come as the source of wisdom and truth, the fountain of goodness and love, in humble and fervent prayer for Thy blessing and direction. Thou hast called upon us to put our trust in Thee, and to ask of Thee the preserving and guiding influence of Thy holy spirit, of which always we have so great need. We would bring to Thee our offering of thanks, that Thou hast not left us without a witness of Thy truth and loving kindness. Thou hast given unto us the written word of Thy truth as a lamp unto our feet, and a light to our path. And we thank Thee, that therein Thy will and our duty are so clearly revealed, and the way pointed out which leadeth into the green pastures and by the still waters of the divine life of faith and obedience. Amen.

MAY ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREFORE lift up the hands that hang down, and the feeble knees; and make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed. Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; for ye are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness and tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard entreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: but ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.—Heb. xii: 12-24.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, who through Thy son our Redeemer has shown unto us the path of life: we beseech Thee to direct us by Thy spirit, that we may give earnest heed to Thy holy word; and grant, blessed Lord, that we may so receive, believe and keep it, as to find the righteousness, and peace and joy of the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

MAY TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN was Jesus led up of the spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward a hungered. And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, and saith unto him, If thou be the son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him.—Matt. iv: 1-11.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, give us this day our daily bread, and bless us, not only with the food which supports the body, but feed our souls with that spiritual food which imparts life, and strength, and holiness to the inner nature. Prepare us, not only for what awaits us this day, but for whatever may befall us through our lives. Strengthen us in hours of weakness, console us in moments of despondency, be with us and bless us in every event, and finally receive us to Thyself, through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. Amen.

MAY THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LIKE as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth; for the wind passeth over it and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them. Bless the Lord, all his works, in all places of his dominion: bless the Lord, O my soul.—Ps. ciii: 13-18; 22.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, whose service is perfect freedom, may we be Thy obedient children. Thou who art the author of peace, may we walk in the gospel of peace! Thou source of all unity, may we have concord with each other, and dwell together in harmony. Thou whose right it is to reign over us, may we cheerfully obey Thy commandments. Amen.

MAY FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GIVE me neither poverty nor riches. The Lord shall give that which is good. Forgive us our sins. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us. He will beautify the meek with salvation.—Sundry Scriptures. My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord; in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.—Ps. v: 3.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, in whom are light and life and all things, fill our hearts with a sense of Thy love. Teach us to serve Thee as we ought. Grant us the aid of Thy grace, that we may know and do Thy will. So shall we dwell in the light of Thy truth, and Thou wilt be with us, and Thy right hand shall lead us all the days of our life. We thank Thee for all the blessings of this life, and for the gift of Thy son, for the light of Thy word, and for the hope of the life to come. Make us to know Thy truth. Thy word is truth. Write that word upon our hearts, that we may have Thee always in our thoughts. Teach us to love Thee with pure hearts, with all our mind, might and strength. Make us Thine, in will and deed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him. And going on from thence, he saw other two brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a ship with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they immediately left the ship and their father, and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness, and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them. And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judea, and from beyond Jordan.—Matt. iv: 18–25.

PRAYER.

WE praise and thank Thee, O Father, for all Thy faithful servants: mercifully grant, we beseech Thee, that we, being compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, may lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. O Lord, bless all Thy people, and may the kingdom of Thy son increase and shine throughout the world. Amen.

MAY SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IN the synagogue at Capernaum, where Jesus was, there was a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, saying, Let us alone: what have we to do with thee, Jesus of Nazareth? Hast thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art—the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him and cried out with a loud voice he came out of him.—Mark i: 24–26. And there came a leper to Jesus, beseeching him, and saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy was cleansed.—Matt. viii: 2, 3.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thy name, our heavenly Father, for the hope that is sure and steadfast: the hope that when these bodies die our souls shall live on forever: the hope that Thy goodness, so great to us in this life, will bless us in the life to come: the hope that, when days and years are past, we all shall meet in heaven. We look forward with praise to Thee for Thy Fatherly love, to the time when Thy purpose shall be fulfilled, and all shall bow to Jesus, and confess him their Lord; when tears shall be wiped from off all faces, and death, and sorrow, and sin, shall be no more. Forgive our sins: lead us into all truth; and work Thy loving will in us, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God. Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committeth himself to him that judgeth righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the shepherd and bishop of your souls.—I.Pet. ii: 15–25.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we give Thee our unfeigned thanks for all Thy mercies: for our being, for reason, and all endowments and faculties of soul and body; for health, friends, food and raiment, and all the comforts and conveniences of life. Above all, we adore Thy mercy in sending us the means of grace in the gospel of Thy son. For these Thy mercies, we bless and magnify Thy glorious name; beseeching Thee to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, in his name who lay down in the grave, and rose again for us, Thy son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

MAY EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AT a certain time, when Jesus had gone forth into the way, there came one running, who asked him, saying, Good master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said to him, Why callest thou me good? None is good, but one, God. But if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. The young man saith unto him, Master, all these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest. If thou wilt be perfect, go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven, and come, follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away grieved: for he was very rich. And Jesus looked round about, and saith unto his disciples, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God? It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who then can be saved? But Jesus, looking upon them, said, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible. Mark x: 17–22; and Luke x.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, accept the prayers of Thy children throughout the world, which shall this day be offered to Thee: give us grace to prepare our hearts, that we may serve Thee with reverence and godly fear; grant us a true apprehension of Thy divine majesty, and a deep sense of our unworthiness; that so, approaching Thy presence with lowliness and devotion, we may present an offering acceptable to Thee, and in the spirit of him who hath taught us how to pray. Amen.

MAY NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: for she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, he said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land.—Matt. ix: 20–26.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, in which we securely trust. We rejoice that Thou art king of all worlds, and of all people, and that Thy laws are laws of love. We bless Thee for life and all its joys: for home and friends: for earth and heaven. We praise Thee for Thy goodness, which is shown to us every day. We thank Thee for the life of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, for his loving spirit, his ready kindness, and all that he has done, and is to do, for us and for the world. Help us to believe, truly and confidently, in our Savior and in Thee. And when evil is in our hearts, and passion or wrong desires seem ready to master us, O touch us with the thought of Thy purity and Thy love, that we may be delivered and healed. In the spirit of Christ, may we love our fellow-men, even if unfriendly to us. Bless all Thy children, in Christ Jesus. Amen.

MAY TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND one of the company came to him, kneeling down to him, and saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. For he is a lunatic, and sore vexed. Oft-times he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water; and he foameth and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. Then Jesus answered and said, Bring thy son hither. And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed, foaming. And Jesus asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, From a child. If thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said, with tears, Lord, I believe: help thou mine unbelief. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father. And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God.—Matt. xvii: 14-20; Luke ix: 39-43.

PRAYER.

OUR heavenly Father, we thank Thee for Thy continued goodness to us, especially for the life of Christ, given to us for an example: for his pity, and love, and faithfulness; for his going about to do good; for his care for all who were in distress; for his ready hand when any needed his help; for the work he is now doing in human souls. Heal our blindness, that we may see Thy glory; heal our deafness, that we may know Thy truth; heal our lameness, that we may run in the way of Thy commandments; and enable us to understand, and do, our whole duty. May we look forward to the time when all souls shall be made perfect, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND it came to pass, when the time was come when he should be received up, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem, and sent messengers before his face: and they went and entered into a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him. And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elijah did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of. For the son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them. And they went to another village.—Luke ix: 51–56.

PRAYER.

FATHER, grant that we may receive from each other those affections our hearts desire: from every eye, the light of friendship; from every tongue, words of truth and kindness. Save us from all enmity and secret animosity: save us from what would dissolve the union and sympathy of other hearts. Thou, who art truth and love, inspire us with that reverence and loyalty which will save us from the perils of disobedience; show us that in Thee are the sources of the mother's love, the sister's tenderness, and the brother's friendship. Flow Thou into our souls as love and wisdom. From Thee may we have the sympathy which will lead us to suffer with all who suffer, rejoice with all who rejoice, and weep with all who weep, and thus fulfill the law of love. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

JESUS taketh Peter, James and John, and leadeth them up into a high mountain apart by themselves, to pray. And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, so that his face did shine as the sun; and his raiment was white and glistering. And behold, there talked with him two men, who were Moses and Elias. And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: let us make three tabernacles, one for thee, one for Moses, and one for Elias. While he thus spake there came a cloud and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. And when the voice was past, Jesus was found alone. And as they came down the mountain, he charged them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the son of man were risen from the dead.—Luke ix: 28–35.

PRAYER.

THOU, Father, seest us in the silent darkness, and art with us in the deathlike solemnity of sleep. When we awake we are still with Thee; and now that the light of day is around us, may the light of Thy countenance so shine within us, that nothing we behold, or think of, may cloud the glory of Thy presence. We give Thee hearty thanks for the continued protection and bounty of Thy providence; for all personal and domestic comforts; for all temporal favors; and for our religious aspirations. Lord, give unto us the believing mind and the prayerful heart. Enable us truly to revere Thee, that we may walk in the way of Thy heavenly law: enable us fully to trust Thee, that our souls may enter into the promised rest. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SO, also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. Then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.—I. Cor. xv: 42–58.

PRAYER.

OUR Father and our God, who watchest us in darkness and in light; in our weakness we come to Thee, who art constant in Thy care, and faithful in Thy providence. We open our hearts in humble confession of our sins, and grateful acknowledgement of Thy tender mercies. May we prepare our hearts for divine forgiveness, by forgiving every one who has trespassed against us. O Lord, Thou hast numbered the hairs of our heads, and not a sparrow falls to the ground without Thee. May all our better desires and hopes be satisfied in Thy love. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NO man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest: neither anything hid, that shall not be known, and come abroad. Take heed, therefore, how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.—Luke viii: 16–18; 19–21. While Jesus yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren, who could not come near him for the press, stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said to him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother, and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.—Mark iii: 31–35.

PRAYER.

WE praise and bless Thee, Parent divine, for the joy of thankfulness and devotion, and for the peace which ever flows through patience and comfort of Thy holy word. The earth is full of the riches of Thy goodness; the gospel is full of the riches of Thy grace; and all Thy perfections, and all our blessings, meet in the commandment to love Thee with all the heart. O, let Thy mighty power descend and inspire us, that our spirits may become images of Thine; and endue us, we beseech Thee, with wisdom from above, that we may ever turn toward righteousness, and so shine as the stars of the firmament for ever and ever. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW when John the Baptist had heard, in the prison into which he had been put by the king, of the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples to Jesus, who said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? And in that same hour Jesus cured many of infirmities, and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering, said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard: how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me. At that time Jesus said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight.—Luke x: 21; Matt. xi: 2–6.

PRAYER.

O THOU, Father of all souls: we rejoice to know that Thou hast never left the world without a witness of Thyself; giving Thy children rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, and filling our hearts with food and gladness, and rendering to every man according to his deeds. O God, who declarest Thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy: mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Thy grace, that we may run the way of Thy commandments, and be made partakers of Thy heavenly blessedness. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer.—I. John iii: 14, 15. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?—I. John iii: 11, 12, 17. A brother is born for adversity.—Prov. xvii: 17. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.—John xiii: 35.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our heavenly Father, for numberless blessings; for all innocent pleasures; for the delights of the mind, and the joys of the soul; for the life and doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ, and for the hope of brighter glory and of more abundant joy in heaven. We bless Thee for the instruction that comes to us from the sacred pages of the gospel. We praise Thee for Thy holy law, and for the conscience by which we discern right and wrong. Give us grace, O Father, to keep all Thy holy commandments; to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Thee. Help us to remember the poor, the sorrowful, and the distressed. May we have kind and pitiful hearts, rejoicing when others enjoy, and sorrowing when others are in trouble. Bless all Thy children, in all lands, and in all ages, through Christ the Lord. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET them that love thy name be joyful in thee.—Ps. v: 11. Great peace have they which love thy law; and nothing shall offend them.—Ps. cxix: 165. Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.—Ps. cxix: 127. As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.—I. Cor. ii: 9. The Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and into the patient waiting for Christ.—II. Thess. iii: 5. Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable, and full of glory. —I. Pet. i: 8.

PRAYER.

FATHER in heaven, we thank Thee for home and its joys, for friends and their love, for healthful bodies and cheerful spirits, for the fair world in which we live, for the innocent delights which attend our path, for the fond hopes which invite us on. Thy gifts are more than we can number; our tongues shall praise Thee with joyful words. Let the love of God be spread abroad through all the world, and peace and joy fill the whole earth; and to Thee be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND when a certain centurion heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, that he was worthy for whom he should do this: for he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue. Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself, for I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof. Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man set under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say unto one, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And they that were sent, returning to the house, found the servant whole that had been sick.—Matt. viii: 6–13.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, who faintest not, neither art weary: whose everlasting work is still fresh as Thy creative thought; we bless Thee for the pity of night and sleep, giving us the rest Thou never needest. We would lie down each evening in peace and thankfulness, and commit the folded hours to Thee. We would rise each morning to a new and nobler service. O Lord, through toil and repose, save us from any fatal slumber of the spirit, and keep us through life to the holy vigils of love and service, as they that watch for Thy morning of eternity. Amen.

MAY TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN Paul stood in the midst of Mars Hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are very devout. For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, To the Unknown God. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you. God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is he worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; and hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the time before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation, that they should seek the Lord if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us. For in him we live, and move, and have our being: as some also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring. Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God overlooked; but now he commandeth all men everywhere to repent: because he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance in that he hath raised him from the dead.—Acts xvii: 22–31.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, our Father, for that holy word which Thou hast ordained as a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. May we so trust in Thy wisdom and goodness as to follow Thy counsel in the midst of all darkness and mystery; and grant, we beseech Thee, that the truth which shines into our thoughts, may kindle in our affections the sacrifice of praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MAY THIRTIETH

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.—John xii: 31, 32, 47. The Lord of hosts shall make unto all people a feast; and he will destroy the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it.—Isaiah xxv: 6–8.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our Father in heaven, for mercies multiplied each day; for life and health; for the joys of home and of friendship; for precious thoughts of Thee; for a Savior; and for the hope of glory. We rejoice that Thou reignest over all things; and that Thy love regards us all with equal compassion. May the peace of God rule in our hearts. May we earnestly desire holiness, and grow into Thy likeness. May we be truly thankful for all Thy favors. Bless our friends; our enemies, if we have any; all the children of men. Bless those who are degraded and depraved, and turn their hearts to duty and to Thee. Bless our country, and all the lands of the earth; and Thine be everlasting praise. Amen.

MAY THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

BUT to do good, and to communicate, forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.—Heb. xiii: 16. If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.—John viii: 42. If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.—John xiv: 23. For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.—John xvi: 27. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.—John xv: 14. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.—John xv: 12.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, whose mercy is high as heaven, and whose loving kindness is excellent, we rejoice in the light which beams upon our eyes, and which shines into our souls. We thank Thee for the loving care which surrounds us, provides for all our wants, and enables us continually to trust in Thee. We praise Thee for all our privileges, and for the heavenly joys which we are permitted to experience. Give us Thy holy spirit, we pray Thee, that we may seek heavenly treasures, and win the riches which cannot be lost. Help us, when we have done what we ought, to be content with such things as we have. May we never be anxious for the future. May we trust in Thy fatherly care, and see the light of heaven, through love of Thee. May the word of Jesus be in our hearts and minds; and may we seek Thy kingdom and its righteousness, and evermore enjoy Thy peace. Amen.

June.

The rich clouds are fringed with yellow and blue,
The lips of the flowers are silver'd with dew,
The winds are reposed upon pillows of balm,
Enjoyment is throned on the clear, azure calm.

The little birds warble their hymns in the boughs,
The delicate winds from their cradles arouse,
The sun gently lifts his broad forehead on high,
As Serenity presses her cheek to the sky.

Shall man, who might be an angel in tears,
Would he weep out the stains of his se- sual years,
While nature is brim'd with affection and praise,
Be a stranger to God, on these fair, summer days?

O no! let the voice of our praises be loud,
While city and village in worship are bowed,
And the blue eyes of Summer look tenderly down,
And nothing but sin has a fear or a frown.

JUNE FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SEE that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: but the word of the Lord endureth for ever.—I. Pet. i: 22, 23. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.—I. John ii: 15–17.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

JUNE SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

VERILY, verily I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door, is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers. I am the door of the sheep: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. I know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also, I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.—John x: 1-5; 11-16.

PRAYER.

THOU art, O Father, the first and the last, and there is no God but Thee. No eye hath seen Thee, nor can see Thee. But Thou art revealed in Thy works, and we can learn of Thee in Thy word, wherefore may the great truth that Thou art be so fixed in our hearts, that we may live as though we saw, and were seen by Thee. May we show that we love Thee whom we have not seen, by our love for those whom we do see. And at the last, when we shall see as we are seen, and know as we are known, may we see, and know, and love Thee, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND one of the scribes came, and having heard Jesus and the Sadducees reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, saying, Master, which is the great commandment in the law? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord: and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself: there is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God, and there is none other but him; and to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbor as himself, is more than all whole burnt-offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God.—Mark xii: 28–34.

PRAYER.

MANY, O Lord, our Father, are the wonderful works which Thou hast done: many have been Thy gracious purposes towards us. Would we declare and rehearse them, they are more than can be numbered. In sacrifice and oblation Thou hast no pleasure, burnt-offering and sin-offering Thou requirest not; therefore we come to Thee. O God, to do Thy will is our delight. Let Thy law dwell in our hearts, and our lives show forth Thy praise. Amen.

JUNE FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AS Jesus went out of Jericho, with his disciples and a great number of people, blind Bartimeus, the son of Temeus, sat by the side of the highway, begging. And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he began to cry out, saying, Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be brought unto him. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort: rise: he calleth thee. And he, casting away his garment, rose, and came to Jesus. And when he had come near, Jesus asked him saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? The blind man said unto him, Lord, that I may receive my sight! And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed Jesus in the way, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.—Mark x: 46–52.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and ever-living Father! We are weak, but Thou art mighty; we are sinful, but Thou art holy; we are mortal, but Thou art immortal. All Thy works praise Thee, and declare the infinity of Thy wisdom, power and goodness. But, O Lord, though raised far above our highest conceptions; though clothed with majesty, and encircled with ineffable glories, we can draw near, and hold communion with Thee. Unchanging and impartial love is revealed in all Thy ways; and Thy voice of mercy is constantly speaking to our hearts. To that voice, O Father, may we ever listen. Qualify us to comprehend all worship in the divine petition, They will be done. Amen.

JUNE FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BRETHREN, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.—I. John ii: 7-10.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, our Father, for that religion which sanctifies the affections, and makes our earthly dwellings the abodes of joy; that we have an existence in a Christian land, and are surrounded by the blessed institutions of the gospel. May Thy word ever direct our steps. Help us to realize that Thou art our infinite friend, and requirest no duty not designed for our good. Open our eyes to behold Thy love, in the obedience Thou dost demand, and in all Thy prohibitory laws. Keep us from falling a prey to error, from listening to the deceptions of sin, and from running into any excess. May we deny all ungodliness, live soberly and righteously, and keep ourselves from the evil that is in the world. May we always obey Thee, and walk in Thy commandments blameless. Amen.

JUNE SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country.—Matt. ix: 27–31.

PRAYER.

MOST merciful Father in heaven, who hast taught us in Thy word, that, if we are faithful to confess our sins, Thou wilt graciously pardon us, and grant us that repentance which is unto life; we would approach the throne of Thy heavenly grace, acknowledging that we are sinful in Thy sight, and are not worthy to be called Thy children. From the earliest dawn of our being, Thou hast watched over and preserved us, and Thou art never weary of bestowing upon us Thy favors. Yet have we failed to recognize Thy hand in the gifts of life, and have transgressed the precepts of Thy word. Pardon our sins, O gracious Father, and mercifully incline us to obey the teachings of Thy heavenly law. Create within us clean hearts, and renew within us a right spirit, and enable us, by Thy grace, to walk before Thee in holiness and righteousness, all the days of our lives. Direct us by Thy counsel while we journey on earth; sustain us in the hour of death; and, finally, crown us with everlasting life; and Thy name shall have all the praise. Amen.

JUNE SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, an honorable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead; and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.—Mark xv: 42–47.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, who art the source and giver of all good; from infancy we have been the objects of Thine unwearied and tender care, and Thou hast been nearest to us when we most needed Thee. Hitherto hast Thou been our helper, and now we would seek communion with Thine everlasting presence. Help us to feel that the unseen world is not far away, but within and around us; and while we pray for a deeper faith in its reality, give us, we beseech Thee, a deeper sense of the one great want of our souls. Save us from being spiritually self-satisfied, that we may seek the true life of religious endeavor. Grant us the grace of lowliness, that we may confess our emptiness, and know how blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

JUNE EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted, ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they anything to any man: for they were afraid.—Mark xvi: 1-8.

PRAYER.

TO Thee, O Father, we owe life, and health and all things. When we lie down, it is under the shadow of Thy wings. When we rise up, Thy right hand upholds us. In Thee we live and move and have our being. Make us to feel that Thine eye is ever fixed upon us, that Thou art with us in every good word and work. O, let not our hearts be so hard, our minds so dark, and our lives so false, that we lose sight of this truth. Give us grace for the work Thou wouldst have us do, and bring us all at last to that place of rest and peace which Thou hast prepared for us, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUNE NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Pilate asked him, Art thou the king of the Jews? And he answering said unto him, Thou sayest it. And the chief priests accused him of many things; but he answered nothing. And Pilate asked him again, saying, Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they witness against thee. But Jesus yet answered nothing; so that Pilate marvelled. Now at that feast he released unto them one prisoner, whomsoever they desired. And there was one named Barabbas, which lay bound with them that had made insurrection with him, who had committed murder in the insurrection. And the multitude crying aloud began to desire him to do as he had ever done unto them. But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the king of the Jews? For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy. But the chief priests moved the people, that he should rather release Barabbas unto them. And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do unto him whom ye call the king of the Jews? what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.—Mark xv: 2–14.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, make us to know our end, and the number of our days, that we may know how frail we are. Behold, Thou hast made our days as a handbreadth, and our life is as nothing before Thee. Yea, every man in his best estate is altogether vanity. What, then, O Lord, is our hope? Our hope is in Thee. Deliver us from all our transgressions; and save us with an everlasting salvation, and Thine be all the praise. Amen.

JUNE TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IN those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them, I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: and if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from far. And his disciples answered him, From whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in the wilderness? And he asked them, How many loaves have ye? And they said, Seven. And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people. And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them. So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.—Mark viii: 1-9.

PRAYER.

FATHER, may Thy spirit help our infirmities as we now pray, teaching us the things that we ought to ask of Thee. May we serve Thee faithfully, and worship Thee aright. We confide in Thy perfect justice. We rejoice in Thy love! We praise Thee for Thy loving kindness and Thy tender mercies, knowing that Thou art our Father. May we put on the whole armor of God, that we may be able to stand in the evil day. May we be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. So may Thy kingdom come in our hearts, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

JUNE ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.—II. Cor. i: 3, 4. The disciples came unto him, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And he sat down, and said unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and the servant of all. And he took a little child, and set him in the midst of them: and when he had taken him in his arms he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever, therefore, shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me; and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.—Matt. xviii: 1–6.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Thee, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

JUNE TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not a high priest which can not be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.—Heb. iv: 12–16.

PRAYER.

FATHER of lights, whose promise of blessing is established in the purpose of Thy grace: open to our meditations the glory of Thy truth, that our hearts may be opened to the fullness of Thy love; and grant, we beseech Thee, that as we seek Thy presence in the communion of prayer, we may find Thy peace in the fellowship of praise. Amen.

JUNE THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND many publicans and sinners drew near unto Jesus to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you having a hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons which need no repentance.—Luke xv: 1-10.

PRAYER.

WE pray, Father in heaven, that Thou wilt enable us diligently to study Thy holy word, that we may become daily more and more acquainted with its requirements and counsels for the life that now is, and with its solemn and beautiful revelations of the life that is to come. O Lord, may our souls be filled with the glorious light of Thy truth, and our hearts quickened by it into newness of life and new obedience. Help us to accept the teachings of Thy word in all things, that we may be able to put away every wrong thought and act, and follow after all righteousness, and so continually grow in the knowledge and grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUNE FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: the grass withereth, the flower fadeth, because the wind of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth, but the word of our God shall stand forever.—Isa. xl: 6–8. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice: with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion. The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.—Isa. lii: 7–10.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, the strength of all those who put their trust in Thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without Thee, grant us the help of Thy grace, that in keeping Thy commandments we may please Thee, both in will and deed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

DRAW nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. Speak not evil one of another, brethren. Go to now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings; all such rejoicing is evil. Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.—James iv: 8–17.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art good and merciful to all men; the giver of every gift. Thou art the source of all true happiness; it is to Thy grace we are indebted for all the privileges and enjoyments of earth. We thank Thee that Thou hast made us capable of loving Thee with all the soul, and our neighbors as ourselves; that we have social natures, and can rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Thy law is perfect, converting the soul; Thy testimony sure, making wise the simple; Thy statutes right, rejoicing the heart; Thy judgments true and righteous. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold, and in keeping them there is great reward. Guide us, indulgent Father, that we may be directed in the paths of peace; feed us with the bread of heaven, that we may have everlasting life; give us the dews of Thy grace, and satisfy us with Thy mercy; and unto Thee shall be given all the praise. Amen.

JUNE SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED is the man whom thou choosest, O Lord, and causest to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts. Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is pardoned. Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity, in whose spirit is no guile. Blessed is the man that feareth the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O Lord, that thou mayest teach him out of thy law, and give him patience in the day of adversity. Blessed is the man that endureth temptation, for when he is tried he shall receive the crown of life which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we remember our sinfulness and weakness, and the manifold temptations with which we daily meet, and we beseech Thee to have compassion on our infirmities, and to give us the constant assistance of Thy holy spirit; that we may be effectually restrained from sin, and excited to our duty. Imprint upon our hearts such a dread of Thy judgments, and such a grateful sense of Thy goodness to us, as may make us both afraid and ashamed to offend Thee. May we never forget that we must account to Thee for all our actions, and receive a strict recompense for all our sins. Wherefore enable us to repent of all our evil ways and thoughts, and turn to Thee in willing obedience. Amen.

JUNE SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IT is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth. There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with the lips. Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed. Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.—Prov. xx: 14–22.

PRAYER.

INDULGENT Father! Thy tender mercies are over all the works of Thy hands. Thy mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Thou hast concluded all in unbelief, that Thou mightest have mercy upon us all. We adore Thee for having called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to Thy own purpose and grace, in Christ Jesus. Teach us, parent of love, to live day by day in humble dependence on Thy promises, in cheerful obedience to Thy laws, and in a sure and certain hope of a blessed immortality. Keep us, we beseech Thee, with Thy perpetual mercy; guard us from falling into sin, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation. From all our enemies, temporal and spiritual, O Lord, in mercy defend us. In all times of trouble, dear Lord, deliver us. Enable us to make a wise improvement of all the opportunities we enjoy; graciously hear our prayers; forgive our sins, and save us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

JUNE EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

FOR the good that I would, I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I, myself, serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.—Rom. vii: 19-25.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, open our eyes to see Thy glorious creation, and when we look upon Thy works, may our souls exclaim, "O Lord, how excellent is Thy name in all the earth." And when we lift up our eyes to heaven, may we be filled with gratitude for Thy care and mindfulness. We praise Thee that there is a second creation, more glorious than the first. We adore that wisdom which contrived the plan of salvation, by which our race will be created anew in Christ Jesus. We rejoice that Thy glory is displayed in creation; but that all Thine attributes are far more wondrously displayed in redemption. We thank Thee that the tidings of mercy have reached our ears, and that we have listened to their joyful sound. We thank Thee for continuing to us the invaluable blessings of peace, health and reason. We supplicate Thy salvation. While we pray for temporal mercies, we would earnestly plead for spiritual blessings. O, give us the imperishable honor of being the spiritual workmanship of our God. Amen.

JUNE NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though ye be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: whom having not seen, ye love; in whom though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.—I. Pet. i: 3–9.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, who hast safely brought us to this day, defend, guide, and sustain us in the same with Thy great power; and grant that this day we may not fall into any sin, neither run into any danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

CHARGE those who are rich in this world, that they be not high-minded, nor place their hope in uncertain riches, but in God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, liberal in imparting, willing to communicate, laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.—I. Tim. vi: 17–19. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumeth, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.—Matt. vi: 19.

PRAYER.

O THOU who hast opened Thy hand, and given us bountifully of Thy treasures, unto Thee, from whom neither deed, word, nor secret desire is hidden, we confess our proneness to sin, and our tendency to do evil. We remember with sadness the sins and errors of the past, and are burdened in view of our present imperfections. As Thou art leading us to clearer visions of goodness, open, we pray Thee, more and more to our view, the recesses of our sins, and the depths of our selfishness. May we see our faults with the eye of divine justice, and may the deformity of error be revealed to us, so that, discarding evil, we may serve Thee with godly reverence and filial affection. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit. Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor. The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy. The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.—Prov. xiv: 8–14.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, blessed for ever, in whose presence is fullness of joy: grant us Thy continual help, that we, who approach Thee in the name of Thy beloved son, may know him to be the way, and the truth, and the life. Draw us to Thyself, O Lord, by Thine own good spirit, that our souls may evermore rejoice in the light and the blessing of Thy fatherly love. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IN the morning ye shall be filled with bread: and ye shall know that I am the Lord your God. And when the dew that lay was gone up, behold, upon the face of the wilderness there lay a small round thing, as small as the hoar frost on the ground. And when the children of Israel saw it, they said one to another, It is Manna! And Moses said unto them, This is the bread which the Lord hath given you to eat. And they gathered it every morning, every man according to his eating.—Ex. xvi: 12–15. Then said Jesus also to him that bade him, When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbors; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompense be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind; and thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just. And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.—Luke xiv: 12–15.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven; forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. We have erred and strayed from Thy ways, and offended against Thy holy laws; yet Thou, O Lord, art plenteous in mercy. Make us sensible that Thy forgiveness must come to us through a forgiving disposition in ourselves. Take away from us all uncharitableness, that our souls may be fitted for the joy of pardon; and graciously enable us, henceforward, to walk before Thee in newness of life. God be merciful unto us, and bless us, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEREFORE, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ; by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope: and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.—Rom. v: 1–8.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Parent, the earth is Thine, and the fullness thereof, the world, and they that dwell therein. All the nations before Thee are as nothing. Thou hast measured the waters in the hollow of Thy hand, weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in balances. Thou art greatly to be had in reverence by all nations. But, O Lord, Thou art good, and in Thy name do we trust. Thou art our glory and strength, our shield and defence. Thy mercy is built up forever, and Thy faithfulness established in the heavens. O God, Thou wilt never leave nor forsake us; Thou wilt be our support forever and ever. When clouds and darkness are round about us, and the heavens are clothed with terror, enable us to feel that Thou canst make the clouds Thy chariot, and ride upon the wings of the wind. In Thee may we ever hope and confide at all times, and never distrust Thy power, goodness, or wisdom. Bless us with a firm reliance upon Thy arm of mercy. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FROM that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men. Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? For the son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the son of man coming in his kingdom.—Matt. xvi: 21-28.

PRAYER.

O GOD our Father, who hast prepared for those who love Thee, such good things as pass man's understanding; pour into our hearts such love toward Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ON a certain day, when Jesus, going unto a city called Nain, came nigh to the gate of the city, behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her. And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not. And he came and touched the bier: and they that bore it stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak: and he delivered him to his mother.—Luke vii: 11-15. And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.—Isa. lxii: 16. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them. This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations.—Isa. xiv: 26.

PRAYER.

EVER watchful Father, we thank Thee for that book which Thou hast given to be the guide and hope of man. We acknowledge the infinite value of its instructions; that it unfolds all the excellences of Thy character, makes known all our duties, and points Thy children on earth to that world where all is life and peace. Grant that we may ever look upon it as a revelation of Thy will; as an unerring counsellor; and as the sun of the moral world, which has risen in splendor upon the benighted nations. May it ever be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, directing us, as a pillar of cloud in the day of prosperity, and as a pillar of fire in the night of adversity, to duty, and heaven, and Thee. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ALL the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee: for the kingdom is the Lord's, and he is the governor among the nations. How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the blessing of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever, and thy memorial throughout all generations. We will bless the Lord from this time forth, and for evermore. Whom have we in heaven but thee? And there is none upon earth that we desire beside thee.—Sundry Psalms.

PRAYER.

O THOU, our Father, we bless Thee for the station Thou hast given us in the scale of being as Thy children. Help us to confess that we have not humbled ourselves as we ought. We praise Thee that Thou hast given to humility a beauty to win us from our waywardness and pride, and that wherever we behold goodness, it is humble, and that Thy son, our Lord, was meek and lowly of heart. May we look aright upon his humility, and see how, while manifesting Thine own self, as the brightness of Thy glory, he boasted not of power, but ministered to man as a gracious benefactor. Forgive us our sins, and keep far from us the haughty spirit and the boasting tongue, and, by Thy good spirit, so rule in us, that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with Thee, as the disciples and followers of him who loved us and gave himself for us. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND as Jesus sat in the temple, opposite to the treasury, he looked up and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury. And many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them, Verily, I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more then they all. For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings to God: but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living.—Mark xii: 41–44. Although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls: yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.—Heb. iii: 17, 18.

PRAYER.

DEAR Lord and Father, whose goodness and mercy have continually followed us: grant us Thy helpful grace, that our souls may always follow Thee. Enable us to make religion the daily experience of our lives. May the morning be ordered in prayer, that the noon may be passed in praise, and the evening in peace. And when the evening of life shall fade away into the night of death, may we trustfully look for the morning of Thy glory, in a day without night, and a life without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AFTERWARD, in Bethany, a few miles from Jerusalem, Jesus was in the house of Simon the leper, where they made him a supper. And there came a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment; and she brake the box, and poured it on his head. And she anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped them with her hair; and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. And there were some that had indignation within themselves, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. Then said Jesus, Why trouble ye the woman? Let her alone: for she hath wrought a good work upon me. For ye have the poor always with you, and whensoever ye will, ye may do them good, but me ye have not always. She hath done what she could; she has come beforehand to anoint my body for my burial. Verily, I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached throughout the whole world, this also that she hath done shall be spoken of for a memorial of her.—Mark xiv: 3–9.

PRAYER.

O THOU who givest what is good, and withholdest what Thy wisdom and love decree, make us thankful for what we have, and patient and trustful always. Thou judgest not like man, but considerest the frailty of Thy child. In darkness, as in the light, we will trust in Thee. May we hold fast our confidence in Thee, believing that Thou art mighty to save and wilt make us partakers of Thy holiness and wisdom. Thou whose love overflows unto all, quicken us by Thy spirit, that we may consecrate ourselves to the service of Thy children, as the best service to Thee. Imbue our souls with the spirit of Jesus, Thy son, our Savior. Amen.

JUNE TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEREFORE thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things. And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them that do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God? Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and long-suffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?—Rom. ii: 1-4.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, unto whom all flesh shall come, and in whose presence is the soul's highest good, we thank Thee that Thou hast so appointed Thy works and Thy providence, that they all teach us of Thee and of Thy goodness, and are full of influences to awaken our confidence in Thee, and to draw us in nearness of love and trust and obedience unto Thee. And we thank Thee that in that still brighter and more glorious manifestation of Thyself which Thou hast given in the gospel of Thy son, we find the same lessons more fully taught, and the same influences more richly abounding. May we see the impress of Thy love, and the manifestations of Thy mercy, and behold Thee revealed as our Father, speaking to us as unto children, beckoning and inviting us to Thee, holding out Thine arms unto us, and pleading with us through Thy son: Be ye reconciled to God. Amen.

JUNE THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on thy left, in thy kingdom. But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They said unto him, We are able. And he saith unto them, Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father. And when the ten heard it, they were moved with indignation against the two brethren. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister: and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.—Matt. xx: 20–28.

PRAYER.

WE pray, O Father, that Thou wouldst pardon all our sins, as we repent of them; and forgive those who offend against us; and may we have peace with Thee! May we forsake all evil ways, and be obedient unto all Thy commandments, that we may have the promise and evidence of spiritual life. Amen.

SPECIAL—BY THE SICK.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FEAR thou not; for I am with thee, saith the Lord. Call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. Because thou shalt forget thy misery, and remember it as waters that pass away: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; because thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name, when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches. Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul followeth hard after thee: thy right hand upholdeth me.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Parent, I look to Thee, the source of life, and health, and strength, and pray for help from Thine infinite spirit, that affliction may be to me the school of virtue, and that I may behave myself as a child under discipline, humbly and obediently, evenly and penitently, that I may come by this means nearer to Thee, and that I may go forth of this sickness by the gate of life and health, and return to the world with a greater strength of spirit, to run a new race of stricter holiness, and a purer religion. But if I pass hence, may I enter that blessed land of life, where all mysteries are explained in the light of Thine infinite love, and where there shall be no more sickness, nor sorrow, nor tears, nor death, forevermore. Amen.

July.

Leave God to order all thy ways,
And hope in Him whate'er betide:
Thou'lt find Him in the evil days,
Thy all sufficient strength and guide;
Who trusts in God's unchanging love,
Builds on the rock that nought can move.

With patient heart thy course of duty run,
God nothing does, nor suffers to be done,
But thou wouldst do thyself, if thou couldst see
The end of all He does, as well as He.

JULY FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. And he spake a parable unto them, saying, the ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: and he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. And he said unto his disciples, Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat; neither for the body, what ye shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment.—Luke xii: 15–23.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

JULY SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WE shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple. By terrible things in righteousness wilt thou answer us, O God of our salvation, who art the confidence of all the ends of the earth, and of them that are afar off upon the sea; who in his strength setteth fast the mountains, and is girded with power; who stilleth the noise of the seas, the roar of their waves, and the tumult of the people. They also that dwell in the uttermost parts are afraid at thy tokens: thou makest the outgoings of the morning and evening to rejoice.—Ps. lxv. 4–8. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me; thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever.—Ps. cxxxviii: 8.

PRAYER.

THOU art the Father of mercies, and only in Thee can we find what we need, to awaken our best powers, and to satisfy our spiritual longings. Thou art the Fountain of living waters, and apart from Thee there is no life nor refreshment to the soul. Enable us, O Lord, to grow daily in the knowledge of Thy truth and grace, that we may press on to higher and higher attainments, daily gaining victories over the world, and over ourselves. Direct us, we beseech Thee, in all our endeavors, and mercifully bring us to Thyself, through the paths of pleasantness and peace. Amen.

JULY THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I SAID, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me. I was dumb with silence; I held my peace, even from good; and my sorrow was stirred. My heart was hot within me; while I was musing the fire burned. Then spake I with my tongue, Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth, and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Surely every man walketh in a vain show: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.—Ps. xxxix: 1–8. When the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his soul alive.—Ezek. xviii: 27. The dayspring from on high hath visited us to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.—Luke i: 78, 79. Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.—Eccl. ix: 10.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, Thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. For a thousand years in Thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Amen.

JULY FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WE have heard with our ears, O God, our fathers have told us, what thou hast done in their time of old. For they got not the land in possession through their own sword, neither was it their own arm that helped them; but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance; because thou hadst a favor unto them. Through thee will we push down our enemies: through thy name will we tread them under that rise against us. For I will not trust in my bow, neither shall my sword save me. But thou hast saved us from our enemies, and hast put them to shame that hated us. In God we boast all the day long, and praise thy name for ever. If we have forgotten the name of our God, or stretched out our hands to a strange god; shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart. Arise for our help, and redeem us for thy mercies' sake.—Ps. xliv: 1–3; 5–8; 20, 21, 26.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our Father in heaven, for the great blessing of freedom which we enjoy, and for the manifold privileges to which we were born. We bless Thee for our country, for its schools and churches, for its civil institutions, for its prosperity, for mental and religious liberty. We praise Thee for the patriots who have labored and died for it, that we, and those who come after us, may be blest through their courage, and unselfishness, and fidelity to the cause of humanity. May the people love truth and justice; may they be faithful to public and private duty. Bless the President and Congress of the United States, the Governor and Legislature of our State, and all who are in authority. May all nations, in due time, enjoy the blessings which we prize so much; and may they all, finally, show forth Thy praise. Amen.

JULY FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches. And loving favor rather than silver and gold.—Prov. xxii: 1. A word fitly spoken, is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an ear-ring of gold and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.—Prov. xxv: 11, 12. Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding; for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand, riches and honor. She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared to her. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.—Prov. iii: 13-17. She shall give to thy head an ornament of grace, a crown of glory shall be delivered to thee.—Prov. iv: 9.

PRAYER.

PARENT of all, who reignest in all worlds and in all time, we would worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. We would reverence Thee as a being of adorable and changeless perfections, and come before Thy presence as children approach a tender and beloved father, to thank Thee for that loving kindness which has ever been over us, and in prayer to ask the continuance of Thy blessing. Especially do we desire devoutly to thank Thee for him who is the brightness of Thy glory, and the express image of Thy person, a bright and beautiful example of the religion he taught, and a triumphant Redeemer of those for whom he lived, died, and rose again from the dead. O Lord, in the life of Thy son, show us a perfect exhibition of Thy love, and lead us to resemble the son, as the son resembles the Father. Amen.

JULY SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BRETHREN, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness: considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.—Gal. vi: 1. Thine own friend, and thy father's, forsake not.—Prov. xxvii: 10. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly.—Prov. xviii: 24. To him that is afflicted pity should be showed from his friend.—Job vi: 14. Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.—Prov. xxvii: 9. Is it not a grief unto death, when a companion and friend is turned to an enemy? . . . Forget not thy friend in thy mind, and be not unmindful of him in thy riches.—Eccl. xxxvii: 2, 6. Whoso feareth the Lord shall direct his friendship aright.—Eccl. vi: 17. If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye shall do well.—James ii: 8.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Parent, may we look into the perfect law of liberty, and continue therein, being not forgetful hearers, but doers of the work, and be blessed in our deeds. May we remember that the world passes away, with all that is in it; may we seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. May we love one another, that God may dwell in us, and His love be perfected in us, that we may be free from all fear. May the love which we have for each other, be our evidence that we love Thee. Heavenly Father, hear our prayers for Thy mercy's sake. Amen.

JULY SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea.—Ps. civ: 24, 25. They that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.—Job iv: 8. Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy.—Hosea x: 12. He shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.—Hosea vi: 3. He is perfect in knowledge.—Job xxxvi: 4. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. —Isa. xlvi: 10. For thou, even thou, only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men.—I. Kings viii: 39.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, from the heavens above, and from the earth beneath, Thine infinite skill and care are manifest to our eyes; and no less, the sweet and cheering evidences of Thy goodness. For Thy wisdom is but the wisdom of love, Thy power is but the power of love. Wherever they are put forth for the purposes of creation, they are exerted for the happiness of Thy creatures; and there is no power, nor wisdom, nor device, nor knowledge, but is directed to this most gracious end. We adore Thee, O God, for the glory of Thy manifestations to the world, for all the tokens of Thy kind care and protection. Impress, we beseech Thee, more of these thoughts upon our minds. Incline us to a study of Thy works, that we may realize Thy constant care, and rejoice in the knowledge of Thy goodness. Amen.

JULY EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LORD, I will follow thee. If any man will come after me, let him deny himself. O Lord, thou art our Father; we all are the work of thy hand. I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Order my steps in thy word. Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. Lead me, O Lord, in thy righteousness; make thy way straight before my face. I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make crooked things straight. Give thy servant an understanding heart. I will give him a heart to know me, that I am the Lord; they shall be my people, and I will be their God.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

FATHER divine, Thou hast called upon us to love Thee with all the heart and mind; yet who are we, that Thou shouldst seek to win the regard of all our powers! and what are we, that Thou shouldst desire or accept our love at all! We bless Thee for reason and conscience, for the generosities and joys of social life, for freedom of worship, and for the liberties of the land. Above all, we adore Thee for the merciful mission of Thy beloved son, for the means of grace, for light in darkness, for strength in weakness, for comfort in sorrow, and for the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith in the Redeemer's triumph over death and sorrow, and his final reign in all souls. Amen.

JULY NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A CERTAIN nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them: Occupy till I come. Then came the first, saying: Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him: Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came saying: Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him: Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying: Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layest not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.—Luke xix: 12–24.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, our Father in heaven, of Thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech Thee, from all things that may hurt us; that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which Thou commandest, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance, and give us peace. Amen.

JULY TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THERE was a certain man in Cesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band. A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway. He saw in a vision evidently, about the ninth hour of the day, an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.—Acts x: 1-4. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.—Prov. xi: 25. Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in dry places, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. The vile person shall be no more called liberal, nor the churl said to be bountiful. For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the Lord, to make empty the soul of the hungry; and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. But the liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand.—Isa. xxxii: 1-8.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, who declarest Thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Thy grace, that we, running the way of Thy commandments, may obtain Thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of Thy heavenly treasure, through Jesus Christ our Lord. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen.

JULY ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE same day came to him the Sadducees, which say that there is no resurrection, and asked him, saying, Master, Moses said, that if a man die, having no children, his brother shall marry his wife, and raise up seed unto his brother. Now there were with us seven brethren; and the first, when he had married a wife, deceased, and having no issue, left his wife unto his brother; likewise the second also, and the third, unto the seventh. And the last of all the woman died also. Therefore, in the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven? For they all had her. Jesus answered and said unto them: Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven. But as touching the resurrection of the dead, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living.—Matt. xxii: 23–32.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven, Thy will be done. Thy will of commandment is the spirit of Thy will of purpose, in earth, as it is in heaven; and all blessing that comes to the soul must flow through harmony with Thee. Inspire our thoughts, and write Thy law upon our hearts, that we may have no will but Thine; and may Thy will, working within us to will and to do, be evermore fulfilled in heavenward aspirations, and in charity widening into all the world. The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

JULY TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEN the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled with the holy spirit, and began to speak in other tongues, as the spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven, who were confounded, because that every man heard the apostles speak in his own language. And Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Israel, Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know; him ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: whom God hath raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the holy spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. And God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts, and said unto Peter, and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the holy spirit.—Acts ii: 2–6; 14, 22–24; 33, 37, 38.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, Father of all, for having never left Thyself without witness of Thy goodness, and for the bounty conferred this day. May we be numbered with the witnesses of Thy grace; and whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, may we live in Thy glory. And may the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

JULY THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD is the king of all the earth.—Ps. xlvii. 7. The Lord is king for ever and ever.—Ps. x: 16. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all; and in thy hand is power and might: and in thy hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore, our God, we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name.—I. Chron. xxix: 11–13.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Father, we thank Thee for life and health; for the souls which Thou hast given us; for the teachings of Jesus; and for the blessings that come to us through Thy truth. We rejoice that we may walk in Thy law, thus cleansing our way before Thee. We praise Thee for the light and the beauty of Thy word, for the hope of Thy grace and mercy, and Thy unchanging goodness and love. May we love Thee more, and be able to enter more into the kingdom of heaven. Direct our hearts, so that we may keep Thy statutes. Make us humble, and meek, and merciful, and peaceful. May we take heed to our way, according to Thy word. Forgive us all sin, and purify us from all evil. Make us rejoice in Thy truth, and may the light of Thy holiness shine in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh, receiveth; and he that seeketh, findeth; and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened.—Luke xi: 9, 10. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him, should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.—John iii: 16, 17.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Parent, we praise Thee that we are blest with renewed mercies; that health, strength and reason are continued to us. We praise Thee for all Thy favors, and especially for the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. We acknowledge that it is Thy richest gift to the world; that it reveals Thy character in all its glory and excellency; Thy grace in all its fullness; Thy mercy in all its tenderness. It is a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path, and sheds its kindling glories upon the valley of the shadow of death. We bless Thee for its saving power; for the millions it has converted from sin; for the mighty victories it has achieved over the powers of darkness, and for all it has done in purifying, exalting, and blessing the world. May we ever listen to its instructions, and never be among those who set at naught so rich a blessing. May we daily drink in its benign spirit, that we may live in peace with all men; may we constantly obey its precepts, that we may be guided in the path of duty, safety and peace. And unto Thee, source of all life, shall be rendered praises for evermore. Amen.

JULY FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BUT the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.—Matt. x: 30, 31. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. He that receiveth you receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.—Matt. x: 37–40.

PRAYER.

ALL-WISE Governor of the universe: Thee we adore as the framer of our bodies, the Father of our spirits, and the wise director of all harmony and order. Show us clearly the duties that we owe to each other, and incline our hearts to perform those duties. Help us to cherish forbearance, charity, and kindness. When others injure us, help us to forgive, and when we injure others, prompt us to penitence. O God, we pray that we may be in thought, word and deed like Thy dear son. Assist us to bear each others' infirmities, to sympathize with and to console each other, to counsel and support, in all the vicissitudes of life. Expand our hearts, that we may extend our kind disposition to all our race. May we remember how much Thou hast borne with us, and yet how ready Thou art to forgive, how often we sin against Thee, and yet how unfailing and plenteous are Thy mercies. And may we endeavor to imitate Thee in all our conduct. Pardon all our sins. Accept our thanks for all Thy mercies. Guide us through life, and finally receive us Thine forever. Amen.

JULY SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

PRAISE ye the Lord. Praise, O ye servants of the Lord, praise the name of the Lord. Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time forth and for evermore. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the Lord's name is to be praised.—Ps. cxiii: 1, 2, 3. O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people. For His merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.—Ps. cxvii.

PRAYER.

HEAR us, holy Father, and bestow upon us Thy rich blessings. Ever hast Thou been kind and gracious, and watched over us with infinite benignity. Thou, O God, delightest in the happiness of Thy creatures, and art daily imparting the riches of Thy bounty. To Thy kind providence are we indebted for all temporal mercies, and for that wise law, by which our steps are directed in the paths of safety and peace. Thy law, O Lord, do we love; and we beseech Thee so to incline our hearts, that it may be our meditation all the day. We give Thee most hearty thanks, that it appeals to all the better feelings of our souls, and calls into action those powers which lift us above the vices and follies of this evil world. O God, may we yield our hearts to its heavenly influences, and experience that unspeakable pleasure which is the reward of cheerful obedience. Amen.

JULY SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AS ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, abounding therein with thanksgiving.—Col. ii: 6, 7. Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.—Eph. v: 20. So we thy people and sheep of thy pasture will give thee thanks for ever: we will show forth thy praise to all generations.—Ps. lxxix: 13. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am.—Isa. lviii: 9. Yea, the Lord will answer and say unto his people, Behold, I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith: and I will no more make you a reproach among the heathen.—Joel ii: 19. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer: and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.—Isa. lxv: 24.

PRAYER.

BE gracious unto us, O Father, according to Thy loving kindness. According to the greatness of Thy mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we acknowledge our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against Thee, Thee only, have we sinned, and in Thy sight have we done evil; so that Thou art just in Thy sentence, and righteous in Thy judgment. Behold, Thou desirest truth in the heart; so teach us wisdom in our inmost soul; purge us with hyssop, until we be clean; wash us until we be whiter than snow. Amen.

JULY EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THUS saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is Holy: I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit.—Isa. lvii: 15. Like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.—Rom. vi: 4. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.—II Pet. i: 11. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Rom. vi: 11. Wherewith shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before the High God? shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves of a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with ten thousands of rivers of oil? He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good, and what doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly before God?—Micah vi: 6-8.

PRAYER.

FATHER of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning: may the good gifts of Thy providence lead us to consider the perfect gifts of Thy grace; and while our bodies are sustained by perishing elements, may our souls be nourished by the bread of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

JULY NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEREFORE I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.—Mark xi: 24. A man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works. And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see, then, how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.—James ii: 18, 23, 24, 26.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from Thy ways. Though Thy goodness is uniform, and Thy character infinitely perfect and excellent, we have not been Thy faithful followers. Lead us to deal justly, walk circumspectly, and be examples to all with whom we may mingle. May we pattern after our Lord; live in the exercise of his spirit, and, like him, be meek, humble, forgiving and kind. When reviled may we revile not again; when wronged may we be forbearing; when called to suffer may we be patient and resigned. May our light so shine, that others, seeing our good works, will be led to glorify their Father who is in heaven. Almighty Father, may we ever look to Thee, realize Thy excellences, and be changed from glory to glory by Thy image; and Thine shall be all the praise. Amen.

JULY TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

DEPART from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous; but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. The Lord redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolate.—Ps. xxxiv: 14–22.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast permitted us to realize that prayer is our surest defence when tempted, our highest privilege when afflicted, and the medium through which Thou dost bestow Thy richest gifts. We bless Thee, O Lord, for every opportunity of calling upon Thy name; for every increase of spiritual light and strength; for every victory over the enemies of our souls. We adore Thee for Thy forbearance toward us, and that, though we have often neglected our duty and slighted our privileges, Thou hast been continually blessing us, and hast preserved us through the watches of the night, guarded us from the dangers of the day, and enabled us to feel the motions of Thy good spirit, inciting us to duty. O Lord, make us more watchful and more prayerful, and grant that we may never forget Thee, nor forsake Thine altar. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IF ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds; and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him: where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. Put on, therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long suffering; forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.—Col. iii: 1–14.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting Father, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve; pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask. Be with us as Thou seest we need, and help us according to Thine abundant grace. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE Lord looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth; he fashioneth their hearts alike: he considereth all their works.—Ps. xxxiii: 13-15. When thou with rebukes dost correct man for iniquity, thou makest his beauty to consume away like a moth: surely every man is vanity. Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear unto my cry. Hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee and a sojourner, as all my fathers were.—Ps. xxxii: 11, 12.

PRAYER.

O THOU, who art our Father and friend, we bow ourselves before Thy throne, and worship Thee in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. We would render our thanks to Thee, that Thou hast created us in Thine own image, capable of contemplating Thy mighty works and ways, and of rejoicing in the blessings of the gospel. We give Thee praise for the religion of Thy son. We thank Thee, that it enables us to look to Thee as the Father and Friend of all mankind, and to put our trust in Thee for time and for eternity. We thank Thee for the gracious assurance it gives of life and immortality in another and a better world, where the parting tear shall not flow, nor the pangs of separation be felt; where there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither any more pain. May we gladly receive its instructions into good and honest hearts, and rejoice in obeying its commands. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD be merciful unto us, and bless us, and show us the light of his countenance, and be merciful unto us; that thy way may be known upon earth, thy saving health among all nations. Let the people praise thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise thee. O let the nations rejoice and be glad; for thou shalt judge the people righteously, and govern the nations upon earth. Let the people praise thee, O God; yea, let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth bring forth her increase; and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the world shall fear him.—Ps. lxvii: 1-7.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, Father of mercies, we give Thee humble and hearty thanks for all Thy goodness and loving kindness to us, and to all men. We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but, above all, for Thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory. And, we beseech Thee, give us that due sense of all Thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedly thankful, and that we may show forth Thy praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives; by giving ourselves to Thy service, and by walking before Thee in holiness and righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord; through whose name be all honor and glory to Thee, world without end. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREFORE take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.—Eph. vi: 13-18.

PRAYER.

WITH the light of this day we lift our souls unto Thee, O Lord, in grateful acknowledgement of that mercy which is our keeper, and which never slumbers nor sleeps. We rejoice in the renewal of the day, and desire to consecrate ourselves anew to Thy service, that we may show forth the praises of him who hath called us out of darkness into light. Help us to feel the need of watchfulness and prayer. Suffer us not to slumber at the post of duty. May our virtue be the courage of faith, our cheerfulness the patience of hope, our example the life of charity. May this day testify a conscience void of offence toward man, and toward Thee; and when we lie down in the evening, may our sleep be sweet. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREWITHAL shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth. I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches. I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways. I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.—Ps. cxix: 9–16.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, we cannot fail to praise Thee, though we cannot praise Thee as we would. We thank Thee for the world that is about us; now serene, now visited with storms; and in serenity and in storms still guarded and watched and blessed by Thee. For daily life, for its duties to exercise our hands, for its trials and temptations to make strong our hearts, for the friends that are dear to us, we thank Thee. Father, we know that we sin; we forget Thy laws; the world has dominion over us, and we are slaves to passion and sense. Teach us to use this world wisely, faithfully and well. In its daily duties and its trials, may we find the school for wisdom, for goodness, and for piety Help us to live at peace with our souls, and with Thee. Withhold from us what is evil, and may we be at one with Thee and all mankind. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God. Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.—Eph. iii: 14-21

PRAYER.

FATHER of all light and Fountain of all good; we bless Thy name, that we have been instructed by Thy truth, and felt its redeeming power. Great, O God, has been our peace, and sweet our communion with Thee and with each other. Thou hast refreshed our souls with Thy spirit; Thou hast led us in paths of safety and peace; when tempted, Thou hast been our succor; when faint and weary, our support; when afflicted, our hope. Thou hast appeared in glory to our hearts, and regarded our prayers. Thou hast been very merciful and gracious, and pitied us as a father pitieth his children. Give us a continuance of Thy mercy and care. Keep us in Thy love. May we daily press forward to higher attainments in knowledge and virtue Enable us to run with patience the race set before us, fight manfully the good fight of faith, and to live in a constant nearness to Thee. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE same day on which Jesus had risen from the dead, at evening, he appeared unto the eleven, as they sat at meat, saying, "Peace be unto you." But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed they had seen a spirit. But Jesus showed them by his hands and his feet that it was he. Then were the disciples glad. And he said unto them, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature."—Mark xvi: 14–18. Afterward Jesus showed himself to the disciples at the sea of Tiberias; and he said unto Simon Peter, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these?" He saith unto him, "Yea, Lord; Thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my lambs." He saith unto him again the second time, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" He saith unto him, "Yea, Lord: Thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my sheep." He saith unto him the third time, "Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me?" Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, "Lovest thou me?" and he said unto him, "Lord, Thou knowest all things: Thou knowest that I love thee." Jesus saith unto him, "Feed my sheep."—John xxi: 1–17. After that he was with the disciples at Jerusalem; and he led them out as far as to Bethany: and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into Heaven.—Luke xxiv: 50–52.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Thee, have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins; confirm and strengthen us in all goodness; and bring us to Thyself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences. For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

PRAYER.

ENABLE us, O Father, to look up unto Thee with reverent affection and devout gratitude; and grant unto us, we beseech Thee, a spirit of trust and humility. We desire to lean on Thine arm of strength, and would bring to Thee all that we have, and all that we are, and consecrate ourselves to the work of Thy law. Behold us, Thy frail and needy children; mercifully consider our lowly state, and raise us up into life. Thou, who knowest the secret soul, help us to look within, that we may know our errors, mourn our faults, and renew our endeavors after a more thoughtful and devotional life. Amen.

JULY TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

EVERY man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the spirit shall of the spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men.—Gal. vi: 5–10.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we thank thee that we are permitted to pray to Thee; to tell Thee what is in our hearts, to confess to Thee all our sins and wrong-doing, and feel that Thou wilt hear us, and forgive us, and bless us. O Lord, ever kind and merciful, we know that we do many things which we ought not to do; that we are often guilty of ill-feeling, and unthankfulness; that we have many times offended against Thee, and are unworthy to be called Thy children; yet Thou wilt receive us, as in sincerity and truth we call upon Thee. Hear us and answer us as we ask as Christian disciples for grace, mercy and peace. Amen.

JULY THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HEAR my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me unto the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle forever; I will trust in the covert of thy wings; for thou, O God, hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name. Truly my soul waiteth upon God; from him cometh my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.—Ps. lxi: 1-8: lxii: 1, 2. Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand. Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.—Ps. lxxiii: 23, 24.

PRAYER.

ALL-GRACIOUS Father, we make acknowledgements for the supervision Thou art ever exercising over all things that live. Our life is an evidence of its existence—and the multitude of mercies that surround that life on every hand, are but the living witnesses that testify to the same great truth. Thou hast measured out the number of our days with Thy superintending care, and all temporal bounties are the proofs of Thy regard for us. And while the body has been fed with the fruit of the ground, the soul has been nourished with bread from heaven. When we were most needy, Thou wast pleased to reveal Thyself unto us—to drive away our doubts, and cheer us in the midst of our sadness. Give us confidence, that Thou wilt crown Thy mercy to all Thy children, by giving them a day without night, and a world without end, in the hereafter. Amen.

JULY THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

JESUS saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. And herein is that saying true, One soweth, and another reapeth. I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labor: other men labored, and ye are entered into their labors.—John iv: 34-38.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we pray Thee to be with us, and bless us this day. Dangers are round us by day and by night. Save us from all that can wound the body, or hurt the soul. Our lives are in Thy hand, and to Thee do we look for help in every time of need. Teach us to keep Thee ever in our thought, that we may fall into no evil way. When we go out, and when we come in; when alone, and when we are with others, may we bear in mind that Thou art with us, and that Thou knowest all we think, and say, and do. Help us day by day to amend our ways, that we may grow in grace, and learn more and more how we may walk so as to please Thee. Forgive all our sins, our evil thoughts, and words and deeds, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

August.

They sin who tell us love can die;
With life all other passions fly,
All others are but vanity—
Its holy flame forever burneth;
From heaven it came, to heaven returneth.

Father, look on us when we fall;—
One momentary glance of Thine
Can from her guilt the soul recall
To tears of penitence divine.

AUGUST FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND God spake all these words, saying, Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy man-servant, nor thy maid-servant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.—Ex. xx: 1–11.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

AUGUST SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HONOR thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, nor anything that is thy neighbor's. And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.—Ex. xx: 12–18.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, enable us to realize the greatness of Thy love and the riches of Thy grace. Give us just conceptions of Thy character, that our hearts may be awed by Thy righteousness, which executeth judgment for the oppressed; by Thy mercy, which endures from everlasting to everlasting; by Thy compassion, which spares the sinful; and by Thy power, which upholds all worlds. We rejoice that Thou art slow to anger, plenteous in mercy, and ready to forgive the erring. We rejoice that Thy throne is established in goodness, and that Thou art kind to the unthankful and evil. And we pray that we may be followers of Thee, and love our enemies, even as Thou didst love a sinful world. May we imitate Thee in Thy forbearance and forgiveness, and like Thee love those whose hearts are inflamed with hatred. May we never be provoked to render evil for evil. Save us, we beseech Thee, from a revengeful spirit, and help us to overcome evil with good. Amen.

AUGUST THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WINE is a mocker, strong drink is raging. And whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. xx: 1. Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath babblings? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.—Prov. xxiii: 29–32.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our Father in heaven, for Thy constant compassion and goodness, that Thy tender mercies are over all Thy works, and for Thy care for all our race, even when unthankful and evil. We bless Thee for the sunshine and the rain, sent upon all, showing that Thou art our steadfast Friend, even when we forget that we are Thy children. Help us, our Father, to live according to the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. May we have his spirit of good-will, and pity and love. May our thoughts and speech be reverent and pure. May we become like Thy son, forgiving and loving each other, and doing good even to those who wrong us. May we call upon Thee in truth, and feel Thee ever near. May we bless Thee every day, and dwell continually in Thy kingdom of blessedness and peace. And Thine be the glory. Amen.

AUGUST FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O GOD, thou art my God; early will I seek thee. They that seek me early shall find me. Guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory. This God is our God for ever and ever; he will be our guide even unto death. O that thou wouldst keep me from evil. The Lord is faithful, who shall keep you from evil. Lord, to whom shall we go? Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. Wherewith shall I come before the Lord? O that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his seat. Ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

OUR God and Father, though we have lived on Thy bounty, and been constantly overshadowed by Thy mercy, we have murmured and complained; we have been impatient and discontented, and given way to those feelings which exclude from Thy kingdom, and render life dark and wretched. O give us, we beseech Thee, those views of Thy character and government, which shall awaken a firm trust in Thy faithfulness and mercy, and render us truly submissive to all Thy dealings. Eternal Father, help us so to discipline our hearts, that we may learn, in whatsoever state we are, therewith to be content. Amen.

AUGUST FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak; knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you. For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.—II. Cor. iv: 6, 7, 13-16. He that soweth sparingly, shall reap also sparingly; and he that soweth bountifully, shall reap also bountifully. Each one, as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, as of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.—II. Cor. ix: 6, 7.

PRAYER.

O THOU, our Father, who hearest prayer! Prepare our hearts for communion with Thy spirit. Help us to draw nigh to Thee, in the assurance that Thou art willing to make our souls Thy temple. O come, and dwell within us, and inspire our minds with a deeper reverence for Thy law, and a higher loyalty to Thy divine kingdom. Open Thy heavens, O Lord, that the light of love may shine into our hearts, that we may hear the voice from the excellent glory, and that Thy spirit may descend and rest upon us and bless us. Amen.

AUGUST SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN the Pharisees went out, and held a council against him, how they might destroy him. But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; and charged them that they should not make him known: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.—Matt. xii: 14–21.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Parent, may we have confidence in Thee that we shall not be tempted above what we are able to bear, and can always find help in the hour of need. May we make this world and its experiences the condition of spiritual growth and moral progress. Lord, save us from our errors and sins! Help us to unlearn our errors, and return unto Thee, the God of truth and love. Help us to be patient and trustful while we labor for the coming of Thy kingdom of peace. May we be perfect as Thou, Father, art perfect. Amen.

AUGUST SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.—Matt. x: 1-8.

PRAYER.

OUR Father and Redeemer, impart to us the treasure of Thy own wonderful condescension. Thou art our Savior; arm us with the shield of patience. Thou art our Creator; implant within us that sweetness of temper which will render us living images of Thy goodness. Thou art our indulgent Father; grant us a firm faith, a steadfast hope, and a never-failing charity. Thou art our Governor; turn us from vanity, pride, and sensuality. Preserve us from the venom of slander, from the thirst of covetousness, from the deceits of hypocrisy, from the poison of flattery, from the contempt of the poor and the oppression of the helpless; from envy, avarice, and irreverence. Exterminate from our hearts all haughtiness and vain-glory; all injustice, rashness, and obstinacy; all impatience, blindness, and cruelty, and incline us to obey Thee in all things. Pardon our sins, blot out our transgressions, and finally save us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SHOW us thy mercy, O Lord, and grant us thy salvation. Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him, that glory may dwell in our land. Mercy and truth are met together: righteousness and peace have kissed each other. Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Yea, the Lord will show loving-kindness; and our land shall yield her increase. Righteousness shall go before him, and shall keep us in the way of his steps.—Ps. lxxxv: 7–13.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we can never feel all Thy love, but as in our ignorance, weakness, and sin, we come, asking Thee to bless us, and reveal Thy presence, show to us, we pray Thee, the reality of our brotherhood, and enable us to perform the duties which it implies. May we be kind to the evil and the good; to the just and the unjust. May we not salute our brethren only, nor simply do good to those who do good to us. May we not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. May Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done in earth, even as it is done in heaven. Amen.

AUGUST NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: for they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck. If sinners entice thee, consent thou not. Walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: for their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives. So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain.—Prov. i: 9, 10, 15–19.

PRAYER.

ETERNAL and holy Father, enable us to see the danger of living in sin, and setting at naught Thy counsel. Open our eyes to behold the true nature of ungodliness; its power to darken our homes, destroy our peace, and make our days wretched. May we forsake every evil way, and conform in all things to Thy righteous law. Give us hearty repentance, an humble and contrite spirit, and a firm purpose to follow Thee. Thou art our King; reign absolute in our hearts, subdue all rebellious passions, and kindle within us the bright flame of Thy love. Amen.

AUGUST TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

MAKE a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious,—Ps. lxvi: 1, 2. Teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.—Col. iii: 16. Speaking to yourselves in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.—Eph. v: 19. Thou puttest gladness into my heart, greater than theirs when their corn and wine are abundant. I will lay me down in peace, and sleep; for thou alone, O Lord, makest me dwell in safety. —Ps. iv: 7, 8.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, who art the author of peace, and lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; grant us that peace which the world can neither give nor take away; that we, who in all our dangers rely on Thy goodness, may under Thy Fatherly protection be defended against all adversities, and evermore rejoice in Thy blessed service, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LORD, thou hast been our refuge in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God. A thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Thou carriest them away as with a flood: they are like a dream. As grass springeth up in the morning, so man in the morning flourisheth and groweth up: in the evening he is cut down, and withereth. We spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are three score years and ten; and, if by reason of strength they be forescore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we vanish away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom—Ps. xc: 1-12.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, we come before Thee, as Thy frail and imperfect children, to seek the aid and strength we need. Thou hast seen fit to place us in a world of imperfection and sin, where temptations surround and present their illusions to deceive and betray. We see dangers at every step; foes without and foes within. To whom shall we go for succor, but to Thee? Where shall we flee, in the hour of danger, but to the shadow of Thy wings? Forgive our errors and sins, and give us that strength which will enable us successfully to baffle all the arts of temptation. O Father, give us wisdom to discern all the false and alluring guises which sin may assume, and deliver us from all evil, making us conquerors through Him who loved us. Amen.

AUGUST TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent). He went his way therefore, and washed and came seeing.—John ix: 1–7.

PRAYER.

IN Thee, O Lord, our Father, do we put our trust. Bow down Thine ear to us; help us speedily; be to us a strong rock, a high fortress, for our deliverance. For Thou art our rock and our fortress; be Thou also our guide, and lead us, for Thy name's sake! Into Thy hand we commit our lives; Thou wilt deliver us, O Lord, Thou God of truth. We trust in Thee: Thou art our God! Our destiny is in Thy hand. Let Thy face shine upon us, and save us through Thy mercy! Amen.

AUGUST THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light.—Eph. v: 8. The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.—Prov. iv: 18. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.—Matt. v: 14. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.—Rom. xiii: 12. Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thy health shall spring forth speedily.—Isa. lviii: 8.

PRAYER.

ADORABLE Father, we fervently thank Thee that Thou hast made such disclosures of Thy character and designs, that we are enabled to find, in Thy gracious communications, the most comforting assurances of divine regard for the most fallen and miserable. We bless Thee for the gospel, and the divine consolations which it affords to all who believe its sacred truths, and for our Savior Jesus Christ, who is our resurrection and our life; and who, having brought life and immortality to light, hath ascended into heaven itself, as our forerunner there. We give Thee thanks for all expressions of Thy goodness to us. Thou, O Lord, dost supply our wants; and day by day give us that sustenance requisite for our support. Thou dost bestow upon us mercies when our hearts are cold and ungrateful. O quicken us, we beseech Thee, and make us sensible of Thy many favors; and Thine, through Jesus Christ, shall be all the praise. Amen.

AUGUST FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BE clothed with humility.—I. Pet. v: 5. Whose adorning * * * let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.—I. Pet. iii: 3, 4. For the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart.—I. Sam. xvi. 7.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, let Thy blessing rest upon us, in the assurance of Thy perpetual presence. Thou goest by, and we see Thee not: Thou passest on also, and we perceive Thee not: yet art Thou very nigh to every one of us. The darkness hideth not from Thee, but the night shineth as the day, and all things are open unto Him with whom we have to do. Make us sensible, we beseech Thee, that Thy glory is in the goodness Thou art ever making to pass before us; and may our sense of Thy loving-kindness, and our trust in Thine overruling purpose, constrain us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before Thee. And at last, when the shadows of the long night shall have fallen on our path, may our souls dwell together in the blessed land, where there is no forgetfulness of Thy presence, neither any more death And to Thy holy name, through the Way, and the Truth, and the Life, shall be everlasting praise. Amen.

AUGUST FIFTEENTH

SCRIPTURE LESSON

IF any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.—I. Cor. iii: 17. Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.—Phil. iii: 21. If thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul * * * the Lord shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul.—Isa. lviii: 10, 11. Rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness.—Joel ii: 13.

PRAYER.

O BLESSED Father, lift us above the narrow and selfish, into Thy loving presence. Let us in vision see Thy face, radiant with a love more tender than a mother's, and hear Thy voice, sweeter than the music which floated above the babe of Bethlehem. Let Thy compassion soften our hearts, and bind us in sympathy to kindred natures. Let us feel Thy nearness as a welcome reality in all our labors, pleasures, joys, and sorrows, and in all our aspirations. And whithersoever our path may lead, may we cherish with unspeakable joy that companionship with each other and with Thee, which shall guide us to the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

AUGUST SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist, and he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead: and that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell: and having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him I say whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were some time alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled.—Col. i: 13–21.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and merciful God, we adore Thee as our Father, and the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. May we receive him as our Master, King, Shepherd and Teacher; our ready and effectual Helper; our Light, our Defence, and our Guide to heaven. May his unbounded mercy encourage us to trust in Thee; his great love, wherewith he loved us, kindle a flame of love on the altar of our hearts; his triumphant death and resurrection inspire our souls with a hope which looks beyond this fleeting earth to the glories of heaven; and his perfect example incite us to every good word and work. Amen.

AUGUST SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. —Matt. xiii: 33. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump ?—I. Cor. v: 6. He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.—Lake xxii: 26, 27. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the son but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the son, and he to whomsoever the son will reveal him.—Matt. xi: 27.

PRAYER.

INDULGENT Father, we acknowledge that we have not made that return for Thy care and love, which we ought to have done. We have been ungrateful, and strayed far away from Thee; we have followed the devices of our own hearts; we have done many things which were sinful in Thy sight, and which merit Thy severe judgments. We lament, O God, our wide departures from duty. Teach us to see the sinfulness of sin, so that in our hearts justice may take the place of injustice, and honesty of dishonesty, and truth of falsehood. Gracious Father, may we realize that the world is one great family, bound together by a common interest, a common brotherhood, and a common destiny. Write Thy law of love upon our hearts; mould us into Thy image, and make us kind, courteous, pitiful, tender and true. Amen.

AUGUST EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.—John xiv: 1, 4–7.

PRAYER.

OUR heavenly Father, we hallow Thy name as that of our unchanging Friend. We rejoice that Thou never slumberest or sleepest, but ever watchest over us. We bless Thee for Thy protecting care, and for the abundance with which Thou suppliest all our wants. We trust in Thy forgiving love, in that Divine knowledge which sees in secret, and in that wisdom by which our lives are made glad. We thank Thee for the word of truth spoken by Jesus to his disciples, and thus to us, and for the assurance that Thou wilt answer our prayers. Teach us by Thy spirit, we pray Thee, to ask aright. May the words of prayer set forth by Thy son become the spirit of prayer in our hearts. If others have done us wrong, may we forgive them; and O Father! do Thou forgive us. May we abhor all sin, and seek to love Thee, and all mankind. Make us charitable, and kind, and tender-hearted and loving, that we may prove ourselves Thy children indeed. And Thine be the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

AUGUST NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD is my king of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth. The day is thine; the night also is thine; thou hast prepared the light and the sun. Thou hast set all the borders of the earth; thou hast made summer and winter.—Ps. lxiv: 12, 16, 17. Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with his benefits, even the God of our salvation.—Ps. lxviii: 19. O Lord, thou art my God: I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things. For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall.—Isa. xxv: 1, 4.

PRAYER.

DIVINE Father, help us to have faith in Thine unchanging goodness, that we may fear no evil, because Thou art with us. Teach us, O God, the value of our faith, that we may prize it as Thy gift. When we are tempted to turn aside from the path of right, may it keep us from the evil. When the world seems cold and dark, may it warm our hearts, and light our pathway, and fill our minds with cheerful thoughts. And when, at last, we come to die, may it give strength and courage to our souls, that we may cheerfully submit to Thy will, and on the wings of faith rise above the darkness of the grave, to praise and glorify Thy name forever. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE hope of the righteous shall be gladness.—Prov. x: 28. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.—Lam. iii: 24. Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord.—Ps. xxxi: 24. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.—Jer. xvii: 7. Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Ye are of more value than many sparrows.—Luke xii: 6, 7. What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me? I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.—Ps. cxvi: 12, 17.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, breathe upon our faith, that it may become a quickening spirit, and upon our hope, that it may become a living trust. May Thy holy word be within us as the ever-burning fire on the altar. Help us to honor Thee in all the duties of life. Not slothful in business, may we be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May our homes be sanctuaries of peace and good-will, opening into the kingdom of heaven, and may Thy angels pass through our hearts in their missions of sympathy and charity. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREFORE, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (for until the law sin was in the world; but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. But not as the offense, so also is the free gift: for if through the offense of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many. And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift; for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offenses unto justification. For if by one man's offense death reigned by one: much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.) Therefore, as by the offense of one, judgment came upon all men to condemnation: even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: that as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.—Rom. v: 12–21.

PRAYER.

O THOU Father of our spirits, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray: often in the midst of our daily business may we lift up our hearts to Thee; and grant that Thou wilt refresh us with Thy presence, so that, by a life well-pleasing to Thee, we may show our love and gratitude, as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THUS saith the Lord, let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches. For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.—Jer. ix: 23; Prov. xxiii: 5. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—Phil. iv: 6. Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich. —Prov. xxviii: 6. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.—Ps. cvii: 43.

PRAYER.

O THOU, who art the God of the morning and of the evening, and the Father of all souls, who causest the light of the day to shine, and the shades of night to gather around us! we desire to worship Thee as our Guardian and Protector, both amid the light of the sun, and during the darkness of the night; as the only being who art able to extend over us the protecting shield which shall save us from evil and destruction. We thank Thee that Thou hast strengthened us in the hour of temptation, and hast not permitted us to fall into any deep and grievous sin—that Thou hast bestowed upon us that degree of health and strength by which we have been enabled to sustain our lot. May we discover the faults and imperfections of which we may have been guilty—the sins of commission and omission which may justly be laid to our charge—and may the retrospect make us more watchful and careful hereafter. We ask all needed blessings in the name of Thy beloved son. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.—Matt. xxi: 21, 22.

PRAYER.

THOU everywhere present Father and Friend, we recognize Thee as the source of all our blessings, and above all, would we remember with devout and grateful feelings, those rich and abundant promises which Thou hast given to us —the promise of Thy spirit to guide, of Thy love to comfort, of Thy truth to teach, of Thy care to protect, and of Thy grace to save us, and that Thou hast promised a time when Christ shall have drawn all men unto himself—when there shall be no more sin, nor pain, nor tears, nor death, and Thou shalt be all in all. And may we, having these promises of Thine, cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of Thee; and through life always, may the fullness of their blessed influence be shed abroad within us ; and finally, with a world ransomed according to Thy promise, receive us to Thyself, and to the fruition of all our hopes in the better home on high, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THOU, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept; I awaked, for the Lord sustained me. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord; thy blessing is upon thy people. Thou makest the outgoings of the morning and the evening to rejoice. Thou visitest the earth and waterest it; thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water. Thou preparest them corn when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly; thou settlest the furrows thereof; thou makest it soft with showers; thou blessest the springing thereof. Thou crownest the year with thy goodness, and thy paths drop fatness. They drop upon the pastures of the wilderness, and the little hills rejoice on every side. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places.—Sundry Psalms.

PRAYER.

WE adore Thee, O Father. Thou hast made heaven and earth. All that we see is full of Thy great glory. We bless Thee that Thou didst send Thy son into the world, that the world through him might be saved. That through Thy power he came forth from the grave, through the gates of death and the place of the dead, and trod the earth with his holy feet. God Most High, who hast given Thy Son to die for our sins, and raised him from the dead that we might have hope, grant us so to put away every evil thought and deed, that we may always serve Thee with clean hearts. May the love that was in him dwell in all hearts. And to Thee, through him, shall be the praise, now and ever more. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A FALSE balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight. When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.—Prov. xi: 1–12, 21.

PRAYER.

ETERNAL God, our Heavenly Father, in whom the spirits of just men do rest in peace from their labors: we thank Thee for all those that have departed this life in Thy fear and love, and whose works do follow them beyond the grave. Blessed be Thy mercy and eternal goodness, O God; and blessed be the memory of all Thy saints in our hearts. Teach us who now dwell upon earth to practice their doctrine, to imitate their lives, and to follow their example as they have followed Christ and Thee. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IN those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance: and now also the axe is laid at the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.—Matt. iii: 1-3, 10. But we all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Lord, the spirit.—II. Cor. iii: 18 (Noyes' Translation).

PRAYER.

INFINITE Father, encircled in Thy paternal and faithful arms, watched by Thy sleepless eye, and protected by Thy power, our hearts are stayed upon Thee. In every extremity and tribulation, in Thy fatherly protection we confide; for in Thee is everlasting strength, and Thy mercy is infinite. Make us thankful for our high religious privileges and hopes; for the teachings of Thy holy word; for the public instructions of Thy sanctuary; for the gift of Thy son; for his pure and undefiled religion; for the sublime truths he inculcated; for his excellent precepts; for his faultless examples; and for the compassionate spirit which he breathed around him, wherever he went, and which his religion still imparts to all who feel its power, and submit to its dominion. And may Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven; and to Thy name shall be the praise and the glory forever. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BUT now, O Lord, thou art our Father; we are the clay and thou our potter: and we all are the work of thy hand.—Isa. lxiv: 8. Beloved, think it not strange, concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.—I. Pet. iv: 12, 13. Take, my brethren, the prophets, who have spoken in the name of the Lord, for an example of suffering affliction with all patience. Behold we count them happy which endure. —Jas. v: 10, 11.

PRAYER.

AS Thou, O Father, dost renew creation with every rising sun, so renew in us the true life; as Thou givest us the stars in the night, so deepen our faith in the time of affliction. In Thee, Father, we live and move, in Thee we have our being. Our hearts exult with joy, O God! If trials come, and pleasures fade away, may we not repine; fill us with the trust of a little child. May sorrow give us revelations of the higher life. Out of grief may we rise perfected to Thee. Father, save us, that we may not wander or fall; shield us by the hand of Thy love. In pureness of heart may we see Thee, and in humility may we learn of Thee. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O COME let us sing unto the Lord. Let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God; and a great king above all gods. In his hand are all the corners of the earth, and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his, and he made it; and his hands prepared the dry land. O come let us worship, and bow down, and kneel before the Lord our Maker: for he is the Lord our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.—Ps. xcv: 1–7.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Enable us truly to reverence Thee as the High and Holy One, to whom all angels cry aloud, the heavens, and all the powers therein. Thou art exalted above all blessing and praise, yet would we come before Thee in childlike confidence, and worship Our Father in spirit and in truth. Lift upon us the light of Thy countenance, that we may worthily laud and magnify Thy holy name. Breathe into our souls the spirit of adoption, and do Thou continually inspire the prayer, Father help us to glorify Thee. Amen.

AUGUST TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul : the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple : the statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart : the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever : the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold : sweeter also than honey, and the honey-comb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned ; and in keeping them is great reward. Who can understand his errors? O cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me: Then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be always acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer.—Ps. xix: 7-14.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS and Merciful Father: Thy thoughts toward us have ever been thoughts of good-will, and all Thy ways are faithfulness and truth. Every day brings to us renewed testimonials of Thy goodness, and every new opening of Thy counsel unfolds fresh tokens of thine infinite love. Father of all, grant us the guidance of thy heavenly wisdom, that we may set our heart on no object, and put our hand to no work, upon which we cannot invoke Thy blessing. So shall the light of the morning be celebrated in the joy of the day, and onr hearts and our hands be lifted up in the evening sacrifice of praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HOW much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning. Understanding is a well-spring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly. The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips. Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man; but the end thereof are the ways of death.—Prov. xvi: 16–26.

PRAYER.

OUR Father and our God! Help us to know our faults. May we learn to hate them, and to forsake them; and grant, that in penitence we may come to Thee for a Father's blessing. Thou art full of compassion. Grant that this day our thoughts of Thee may help us to see that holiness is beautiful; that obedience alone is blessed; that to be penitent and sorry for our sins is the way for us to return to Thy arms, to receive Thy favor, and to acquaint ourselves with Thy love. Save us from temptation, and fit us for every duty. Go with us through every trial; be our hope in death; and crown us at last to Thy glory, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

AUGUST THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THESE words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy son, that thy son also may glorify thee: as thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent. I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.—John xvii: 1-5, 10.

PRAYER.

O Lord, our Father, may we never be among those who shall regard Thy sacred Word with indifference, or live in rebellion against its laws, or turn a deaf ear to its solemn admonitions. May we search it continually, and seek to be enlightened by its wisdom, sanctified by its spirit, and governed by its precepts. We acknowledge that it is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, and is able to make us thoroughly furnished unto all good works. May we apply it to every situation in life; and study it attentively and prayerfully. May it instruct, guide, and make us wise unto salvation. Amen.

September.

They who seek the throne of grace,
Find that throne in every place;
If we seek a life of prayer,
God is present everywhere.

Build thee more stately mansions, O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple, nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven within a dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by life's unresting sea.

SEPTEMBER FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

REJOICE in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice. Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—Phil. iv: 4–8.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in Heaven: Hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done, in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

SEPTEMBER SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A CERTAIN man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck, and kissed him.—Luke xv: 11-20.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, may we keep in mind the precepts of the gospel, and live in accordance with the example of Christ. Increase our faith, and hope, and love, that we may grow stronger in affection toward Thee, and more kind and compassionate toward each other. Help us to live in peace with the world, to bear our portion of its burdens, to resist its temptations, and overcome its evil; and in all we do and say, may we glorify Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEPTEMBER THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: and bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat and be merry: for this my son was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found. And they began to be merry. Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said unto him, Thy brother is come, and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. And he was angry, and would not go in; therefore came his father out, and entreated him. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.—Luke xv: 20–32.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, we would feel Thy presence, and know Thee as Thou art, and glorify Thee with all our mind, and conscience, and heart, and soul. We would commune with Thee, who art the permanent in things that change; the foundation of what lasts; the loveliness of the beautiful, and the wisdom, and justice, and love, which made, and hold, and bless all things. Help us to be stronger and nobler by this world's varying good and ill; may we become purer, tenderer, truer, and heavenlier, and grow in goodness and grace, from day unto day, and so anticipate the life beyond, while we linger on the shores of time. In the Redeemer's name. Amen.

SEPTEMBER FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I SEEK not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, if a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. If I honor myself, my honor is nothing: it is my Father that honoreth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God: yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus saith unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.—John viii: 50–59.

PRAYER.

FATHER Supreme, we flee to Thee, the safeguard of the world, with our morning offering of grateful hearts, and implore the gift of Thy holy spirit. Thou sendest Thy sunlight on the world, and Thy rain to still the dust and pacify the stones of the street, that cry to Thee for moisture from the skies, and we know that Thou wilt feed our spirits with Thine inspirations, ministering truth to the hungry mind, and love to the earnest, asking heart. So visit us that we may become nobler, better. May we become divine in our humanity, by loving such as despitefully use us, and so be followers of Thee, and Thy children. Amen.

SEPTEMBER FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. Now when he was in Jerusalem at the passover, in the feast day, many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did. But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man; for he knew what was in man.—John ii: 18–25.

PRAYER.

O LORD, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth, send Thy holy spirit and pour into our hearts that excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace, and of all virtues, without which, whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee. Grant this, through the teachings of Thine only son. Amen.

SEPTEMBER SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE neighbors therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, A man that is called Jesus made clay and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight. Then said they unto him, Where is he? He said, I know not. Then again the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. He said unto them: He put clay upon mine eyes, and I washed and do see. Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, how can a man that is a a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them. They say unto the blind man again, What sayest thou of him, that he hath opened thine eyes? He said, He is a prophet.—John ix: 8-17.

PRAYER.

OUR Heavenly Parent, may we ever keep our hearts open to Thee, and receive from Thee the virtue that will give us strength, and fit us for every duty in life. Let Thy blessing attend us to-day. May Thy goodness cheer us in the midst of gloom, deliver us from sorrow, and keep us from temptation. And to Thy name be all the honor, and the glory, and the power, forever. Amen.

SEPTEMBER SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O THAT men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! He turneth rivers into a wilderness, and the water-springs into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein. He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and dry ground into water-springs. And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; and sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.—Ps. cvii: 33–43.

PRAYER.

PARENTAL Spirit, who needest not that we call upon Thee with words, for Thou knowest our innermost thoughts, we would reverence Thy power, worship Thy wisdom, adore Thy justice, be gladdened by Thy mercy, and blest by communion with Thee. We know Thou needest no sacrifice at our hands, no offering from our lips, and yet we cannot fail to praise Thee, though we cannot praise Thee as we should. Refresh us by Thy spirit, that we may be better prepared for life's joys and crosses, its trials and triumphs, and all its varied duties. May we, with penitence, wash out the remembrance of wrong, and with wings of new resolutions fly out of darkness into the higher, brighter heaven of human duty, human joy, and of Christian peace. Amen.

SEPTEMBER EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BEHOLD, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with you; and this shall be the covenant that I will make with you: I will put my law in your inward parts, and write it in your hearts; and will be your God and you shall be my people. And you shall teach no more every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know ye the Lord; for you shall all know me, from the least of you unto the greatest of you, saith the Lord; for I will forgive your iniquity, and I will remember your sin no more.—Jer. xxxi: 31–34.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God and everlasting Father, in whom we live, and move, and have our being, we render Thee praises for our preservation, from the beginning of our lives to this day. And since it is of Thy mercy, O Father, that another day is added to our lives, we dedicate our souls and our bodies to Thee, and Thy service, in a sober, righteous, and godly life, in which resolution do Thou, O merciful God, confirm and strengthen us, that, as we grow in age, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THOUGH thy sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow.—Isaiah i: 18. Create in me a clean heart, O God.—Ps. li: 10. A new heart also will I give you.—Ezek. xxxvi: 26. Cast thy burden upon the Lord and he shall sustain thee.—Ps. lv: 22. Leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation!—Ps. xxvii: 9. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee.—Heb. xiii: 5. Who is sufficient for these things?—II. Cor. ii: 16. My grace is sufficient for thee.—II. Cor. xii: 9. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God.—Ps. xlii: 2. My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning.—Ps. cxxx: 6. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.—Isaiah xl: 30. He that believeth on me though he were dead, yet shall he live.—John xi: 25.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, while we hallow Thy name upon our lips in praise and prayer, we would hallow Thy spirit and love in our hearts, so that we may be able to show forth Thy truth in our daily lives. We ask for no strange work to be wrought for us, but we ask Thee to help us work out, in all we think, or say, or do, that which Thou hast taught us in the lessons of Thy holy word. As the light of this day has beamed upon us, so may the light of Thy love shine in upon our hearts, and through our lives, that error and sin may be banished from us. Help us in our duties; protect us in every temptation and danger; guide us by Thy spirit to the end of life, and receive us to Thyself at last, redeemed from all weakness and sin, and made worthy to enter into Thy rest, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AWAKE, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old.—Isa. li: 9. O Lord, be gracious unto us; we have waited for thee, be thou our arm every morning, our salvation also in the time of trouble.—Isa. xxxiii: 2. Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory.—Isa. lxiii: 15. Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But our iniquities have separated between us and our God, and our sins have hid his face from us, that he will not hear.—Isa. lix: 1, 2. For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person, yet doth he devise means that his banished be not expelled from him.—II. Sam. xiv: 14.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, send down Thy spirit like a ray of light upon our path, and deliver us from evil. Keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death. In the midst of health, may we remember Thee, our Witness and Judge, and use every blessing as a sacred gift. In the darkness or in the light may we trace the working of Thy power, and consider that the same Being, the Lord, gracious and merciful, gives and takes away, and still may we bless Thy name. Amen.

SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEREFORE, seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; but have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.—II. Cor. iv: 1-7.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, our Father in Heaven, of Thy bountiful goodness keep us, we beseech Thee, from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready, both in body and in soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things which Thou commandest, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LORD be thou my helper.—Ps. xxx: 10. Fear not, I will help thee.—Isa. xli: 13. Call upon me in the day of trouble. I will deliver thee.—Ps. i: 15. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from sin.—Ps. li: 2. I will, be thou clean. Matt. viii: 3. Keep the door of thy lips.—Ps. cxli: 3. I will be with thy mouth and teach thee what to say.—Ex. iv: 12. God be merciful to me a sinner.—Luke xviii: 13. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.—Tim. i: 15. What must I do to be saved? —Acts xvi: 30. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.—Acts xvi: 31. Oh that I knew where I might find him.—Job xxiii: 3. Ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart.—Jer. xxix: 13.

PRAYER.

PARENT of mercy, lift every shadow from our minds, that we may see Thee in all that is bright and beautiful in life; and help us so to trust in Thee, that all that is dark and sorrowful may tend to bring us still closer to Thyself. Oh grant that we may feel Thy presence and love in every period of our lives, that our souls may be filled with Thy peace and joy. Make us wise and good by the truth we learn; faithful to all our duties, as he was wise and good and faithful whom we call our Master and Redeemer. Let his example be the light by which we walk, and his character the pattern of our own; so shall Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

SEPTEMBER THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEREFORE laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes desire the sincere milk of the word that ye may grow thereby, if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious; but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner.—I. Peter ii: 1–7.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, who declarest Thy almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity, mercifully grant unto us such a measure of Thy grace that we, running the way of Thy commandments, may obtain Thy gracious promises, and be made partakers of Thy heavenly treasure, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SEPTEMBER FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them, and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body. Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have. Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God; whose faith follow considering the end of their conversation. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines, for it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace. Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.—Heb. xiii: 1-21.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, Father of all, for having never left Thyself without witness of Thy goodness, and for the bounty conferred this day. May we be numbered with the witnesses of Thy grace; and whether we eat or drink, or live or die, or whatever we do, may we do all to Thy glory, through Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

SEPTEMBER FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

JESUS said unto them, they that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy and not sacrifice; for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.—Matt. ix: 12, 13. Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls; for my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.—Matt. xi: 28, 30.

PRAYER.

FATHER of lights, with Whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning, may the good gifts of Thy providence lead us to consider the perfect gifts of Thy grace; and while our bodies are sustained by perishing elements, may our souls be nourished by the bread of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and unto Thee, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

SEPTEMBER SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord. Whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living. But why dost thou judge thy brother? Or why dost thou set at naught thy brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment-seat of Christ For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So, then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.—Rom. xiv: 7–12.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, most holy and most merciful! We turn to Thee and ask for Thy blessing as we go forth to encounter the trials and temptations of another day. Fit us to meet them as obedient and devoted children. Save us from pride; lift us above the mean things of this world, and help us to become better day by day. Grant that we may always look up to Thee as the fountain of our life and our joy. As the angels in heaven praise thee, so may we, Thy children on earth, ever ascribe to Thee the praise, honor, and dominion that belong to Thy most glorious name. Amen.

SEPTEMBER SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HOW can ye, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things; and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. Matt. xii: 34–37.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting Father, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of Thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask. Do with us and for us as Thou seest we need, and help us according to Thy abundant grace. Amen.

SEPTEMBER EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I WISDOM, dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions. Counsel is mine and sound wisdom. I am understanding; I have strength. I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honor are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver. I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment, that I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.—Prov. viii: 12–21.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, who of Thy great mercy hast promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto Thee, have mercy upon us, and pardon and deliver us from all our sins. Confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to Thyself, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

SEPTEMBER NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying: The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel. Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea, for they were fishers. And Jesus said unto them, come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men. And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.—Mark i: 16–18.

PRAYER.

WE bless Thee, our Father, for that holy word which Thou hast ordained as a lamp to our feet, and a light to our path. May we so trust in Thy wisdom and goodness, as to follow Thy counsel in all darkness and mystery. And grant, we beseech Thee, that the truth which shines into our thoughts, may kindle in our affections the sacrifice of praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BE of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath; for it is written, vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.—Rom. xii: 16–21.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, and God of all grace, we look to Thee in prayer and supplication. We acknowledge Thee as the source of all our joy, and we would render unto Thee some worthy offering of praise. May we be drawn nearer to Thee as we see from day to day the testimonies of Thy love; and may we show our gratitude for all Thy favors, by the conduct of our lives. Let Thy benediction go with us among the duties and temptations of the world, and may we find abundant entrance into Thy kingdom, through Christ, our Master and Redeemer. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen, for by it the elders obtained a good report. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts, and by it he being dead yet speaketh. But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.—Heb. xi: 1–6.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, the strength of all those who put their trust in Thee, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, through the weakness of our mortal nature, we can do no good thing without Thee, grant us the help of Thy grace, that in keeping Thy commandments we may please Thee, both in will and deed. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counsellor, hath taught him? With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed to him the way of understanding? Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance; behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing. All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity. —Isa. xl: 12–17.

PRAYER.

FATHER of lights, whose promise of blessing is established in the purpose of Thy grace: open to our meditations the glory of Thy truths, that our hearts may be opened to the fullness of Thy love; and grant, we beseech Thee, that as we seek Thy presence in the communion of prayer, we may find Thy peace in the fellowship of praise. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HAST thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.—Isa. xl: 28–31.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Heavenly Father, who hast safely brought us to this day, defend, guide, and sustain us in the same, with Thy great power; and grant that this day we may not fall into any sin, neither run into any danger; but that all our doings, being ordered by Thy governance, may be righteous in thy sight, through Christ. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEY that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. There is that scattereth and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat; and he that watereth shall be watered also himself. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise. Say ye to the righteous, it shall be well with him; for they shall eat of the fruit of their doings. And he that reapeth receiveth wages and gathereth fruit unto life eternal, that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together. Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, blessed forever, in whose presence is fullness of joy, grant us Thy continual help, that we may approach Thee in the name of Thy beloved son, and may know him to be the way, the truth, and the life. Draw us to Thyself, O Lord, by Thine own good spirit, that our souls may evermore rejoice in the light and the blessing of Thy Fatherly love. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BUT after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, who will render to every man according to his deeds: to them, who, by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life: but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath: tribulation and anguish upon every soul of man that doeth evil; of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile: but glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good; to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: for there is no respect of persons with God.—Rom. ii:5–11.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS Father, we call upon Thee, remembering that Thou art the only one able to answer our prayers. In heaven and on earth Thou hearest and answerest prayer. Thy gracious ear is always listening to the voices of Thy children; Thy watching eye is always regarding them in their dangers; Thy loving heart is always yearning for their walk with Thee, and Thy bountiful hand is always open to supply their wants. Thou knowest how far they are away from Thee and their hearts' true home, and how often they forget Thee and their home with Thee in heaven. To-day wilt Thou lift our hearts to Thee and that heavenly home? Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever, therefore, resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain; for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For, for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render, therefore, to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. —Rom. xiii:1-7.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, who hast prepared for those who love Thee, such good things as pass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards Thee, that we, loving Thee above all things, may obtain Thy promises, which exceed all that we can ask or even think. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

CONSIDER the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls? Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If, then, God so clothe the grass, which is to-day in the field, and to-morrow is cast into the oven: how much more will he clothe you, O ye of little faith? And seek not ye what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink, neither be ye of doubtful mind. For all these things do the nations of the world seek after: and your Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.—Luke xii: 24–30.

PRAYER.

THOU art our Father, and Thy home we would look to as our own. Oh, draw our thoughts to Thee, and hold them there in restful confidence. Give us faith to see our home on high, with our dear ones there. Teach us, O Father, to so live that our earthly homes may be peaceful and happy. Help us to enrich our hearts with all good affections, that we may be able to enjoy with fullness our home with Thee. May we live all our days affectionately with each other, that our homes below may be schools preparing us for our home in heaven; and unto Thy great name will we ascribe praises now and evermore. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honor, and didst set him over the works of Thy hands. Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man.—Heb. ii:5–9.

PRAYER.

DEAR Lord, our Father, whose goodness and mercy have continually followed us, grant us Thy helpful grace, that our souls may continually follow Thee. Enable us to make religion the daily experience of our lives. May the morning be ordered in prayer, that the noon may be passed in praise, and the evening in peace. And when the evening of life shall fade away into the night of death, may we trustfully look for the morning of Thy glory, in a day without night, and a life without end. Amen.

SEPTEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed. And he said unto them, Let us go into the next town, that I may preach there also: for therefore came I forth. And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.—Mark i:35–42.

PRAYER.

O THOU who art our Father and our everlasting Friend, the giver of life and all its blessings, while we thank Thee for the bounties of Thy providence, we adore Thy most holy name for the gift of Thy son. We thank Thee for the life he lived, for the truth he taught, and for all the words of comfort which he has left for afflicted hearts. We thank Thee that he lived for our instruction, that he died for our salvation, and rose again for our hope and consolation. Grant, O God, that we may ever look unto him as the author and finisher of our faith, and may we feel the power of his new and higher life, turning us from our sins, and lifting us nearer to Thee. Amen.

SEPTEMBER THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again. Hear counsel and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise. There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand. The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar. The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.—Prov. xix: 19–23.

PRAYER.

WE pray, O Father, that Thou wouldst pardon all our sins, as we repent of them; and forgive those who offend against us, and may we have peace with Thee. May we forsake all evil ways, and be obedient to all Thy commandments, that we may have the promise and evidence of spiritual life. Amen.

SPECIAL—FOR THE SICK.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SAVE me, O God; for the waters are come into my soul. Hear me, O Lord, turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, for I am in trouble: attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low. Let not your heart be troubled, saith the Lord, neither let it be afraid. I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted. If thou turn unto the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, he will comfort thee. Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee. The flesh and the heart faileth, but God is the strength of the heart, and our portion forever. Trust therefore in the Lord, for he doeth all things well —Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

O HEAVENLY Father, our Hope in all doubt, and our Helper in distress: hear our prayer, in behalf of our dear one. Give him * patience under privation and pain. If it please Thee, let not this sickness be unto death, lest we have sorrow upon sorrow. But whether it be unto death or not, may it be unto Thy glory, and to his * spiritual welfare. Grant to the sick divine light and consolation, that the inward peace which the world cannot give, may bless the couch of weariness; look with compassion upon his * infirmites; and inspire him * with a living faith, and a holy and heavenly hope. O graciously prepare both him * and us for all the events of Thy providence. And when we fade away from among all visible things, may we find welcome entrance into the blessedness of our Father's house, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

* Her.

October.

I know not what the future hath
Of marvel or surprise;
Assured alone that life and death
His mercy underlies.

And so beside the silent sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm can come from Him to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.

OCTOBER FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

COMFORT the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore.—I. Thess. v: 14–16. But as touching brotherly love, ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; that ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing. But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.—I. Thess. iv: 9–18.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OCTOBER SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the Lord be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And they called on the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down. And Eiijah took twelve stones, . . . and with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord.—I. Kings xviii: 21–32.

PRAYER.

FATHER of Mercies: may we find grace to sustain us this day. Leave us not to our own weakness and the devices of our own wayward hearts. Guide us by Thy wisdom, strengthen us by Thy might, preserve us from all unholy thoughts, unhallowed dispositions and sinful acts, that we may be void of offence towards Thee and towards each other. May we compare a life of folly and sin with a life of wisdom and goodness. Show us that they have great peace who love Thy law, while the wicked are like the troubled sea when it cannot rest; that the candle of the wicked is continually extinguished in darkness, while the path of the just is as the shining light, that groweth brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. Lead us, we pray Thee, in that heavenly direction. Amen.

OCTOBER THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The Lord, he is the God: The Lord, he is the God.—I. Kings xviii: 36–39.

PRAYER.

O GOD, eternal Creator of all things, Lord of heaven and earth, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Father of mercies, and God of all comfort; who hast made us in Thine own image, created us anew by Thy beloved son, and called us Thy children; who hast promised Thy holy spirit to those that seek it, and prepared for us an eternal kingdom. With the host of heaven, and with Thy faithful servants on earth, we would cry, Holy art Thou, Lord God Almighty; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory. Amen.

OCTOBER FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again: and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give unto your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.—Luke vi: 34–38.

PRAYER.

OUR Heavenly Father, we lack the wisdom of Thy word; wilt Thou help us to possess it; aid us as we strive to understand it. Make us wise in its holy counsels. Impress our minds with its lessons of duty, that we may possess that wisdom from above, more precious than rubies, and more to be desired than fine gold. We lack the wisdom of Thy son; assist us that we may obtain it, and become more like him. May his precious words of wisdom be written on our hearts. May his blessed life, so full of holy deeds, shine always before us, and bring us nearer to Thee, that we may walk with the dear Redeemer, and glorify Thy name forever. Amen.

OCTOBER FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NEITHER pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one, as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them as thou hast loved me. Father, I will that they also whom thou hast given me be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.—John xvii: 20-24.

PRAYER.

DELIVER us, our Father in heaven, from the sin and woe of striving against Thee. Save us, we beseech Thee, from laying up sorrow against a cloudy and bitter day; and in the darkest night of our experience, and in the dark valley, may we walk in the starlight of Thy presence, and feel our supplication transformed into a psalm of praise to Thee, the Savior of the world. Amen.

OCTOBER SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN Jesus six days before the passover came to Bethany, where Lazarus was which had been dead, whom he raised from the dead. There they made him a supper: and Martha served: but Lazarus was one of them that sat at the table with him. Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odor of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, Let her alone; against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.—John xii: 1–8.

PRAYER.

O HOLY Father, fill our hearts with love, such as dwelt in Thy son, and went out from him in blessings upon mankind. May we be gentle and kind, considerate and tender; and may we cherish and practise love towards all. God of truth and mercy, may we love the poor, the sick, and the sorrowing of our race, and may we seek to do them good. Grant unto us such wisdom, and strength, to do Thy will, that we may love our enemies, bless them that curse us, and pray for those that despitefully use us and persecute us. And may we truly seek the salvation of Thy whole family, our brethren, by works of righteousness, through him who died that the world might live. Amen.

OCTOBER SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND he came hither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah? And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still, small voice. And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave.—I. Kings xix: 9–13.

PRAYER.

INFINITE Father, give us the spirit of Thy son. May we be meek and humble and forgiving like him. May the same mind be in us which was in him. Give us his ardent love, his strong faith, his patience under wrongs, his willingness to suffer for the promotion of truth. May his unexhausted light spring forth into our souls, and scatter their darkness, that the brightness of Thy love may shine within us. Amen.

OCTOBER EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SAY not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not inquire wisely concerning this. It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thy hand; for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all. Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight which he hath made crooked? We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

GOD of power and of wisdom: Thou who didst create us in love; who hast watched over us in love; and who wilt be to us a loving Father forever. We desire to lift up our souls to Thee in humble trust and with reverent affection, that we may come nearer to Thee. Thou hast manifested Thyself to the world in many ways, but especially through Thy son Jesus Christ, who came to the earth because Thou didst so greatly love our race, and who lived and taught among men that they might learn to serve Thee, and to love each other better. May we walk continually with the consciousness that Thy love is around us. And when we fold our hands for death, may it be with the sweet trust that we shall go home to heaven, where we shall enjoy Thy love in a world without end. Amen.

OCTOBER NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come: and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and this is the name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the dimly-burning flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth; and the isles shall wait for his law. He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass, as showers that water the earth. In his days shall the righteous flourish, and abundance of peace. He shall have dominion from sea to sea and from the rivers unto the ends of the earth.—Sundry Prophecies.

PRAYER.

GUARDIAN, Helper and Father: We praise Thee that Thy goodness regards not our merits, but our needs; and our deepest necessity is answered in the revelation of Thine infinite worthiness. In every abode of man, and unto the least and lowest of Thine offspring, in all ages and in all worlds, Thy spirit is for ever calling, Son, give me thy heart! We bless Thee, O our Father, that Thou hast given us Thy tenderness. Save us, we beseech Thee, from the sin and the woe of putting it away from us. Be Thou present to our meditations, not alone when with solemn forms we invoke Thy blessing, but in all our duties, and enjoyments, and sufferings, until every pulsation of desire shall be in harmony with Thy holy will. Amen.

OCTOBER TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it. And he called that place Beth-el: but the name of that city was Luz at first. And Jacob vowed a vow, saying, If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat and raiment to put on, so that I come again to my father's house in peace; then shall the Lord be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee. —Gen. xxviii: 11, 12, 18-22.

PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Father: We thank Thee for the light of this morning, and all its accompanying blessings. May Thy daily mercies be acknowledged by daily thanksgivings, and the discharge of daily duties. In our weakness, impart unto us of Thy infinite strength, that we may run and not be weary, and walk and not faint, in the path of duty, so that we may follow in the way of Thy commandments, from day to day and year to year, from grace to grace and from glory to glory. Amen.

OCTOBER ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE spirit of man will sustain his infirmity: but a wounded spirit who can bear? The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge. A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men. He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbor cometh and searcheth him. The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty. A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.—Prov. xviii: 14–19, 24.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Friend and Father in heaven, we desire to realize that all our blessings come from Thee; and would raise our hearts towards Thee, in thanksgiving and love, for all Thy care and mercy. We pray for wisdom, to comprehend the sacredness of all gifts; for help that will enable us so to live, that we may nourish the respect and affection of all. And whatever Providence shall call us to experience, may love fill our hearts and direct our actions towards them; and we will give Thee praise and glory through Thy son and our Savior forever. Amen.

OCTOBER TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WALK in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.—Gal. v: 16–25.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, Father, that Thou hast given us Thy word, and that we are taught Thy truth. May it be so fixed in our minds, that with the faith of Christ on our lips, and in our hearts, we may know and do Thy will. So shall our tongues praise thee with songs of joy, and our hearts shall love Thee more than words can tell. Be with us as we go out into the world, to shield us from all harm. Blot out our sins that we may be Thine in will and in deed. We ask it through Thy son, our Savior. Amen.

OCTOBER THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honor.—John xii: 23–26.

PRAYER.

WE Thank Thee, our Father and Friend, for the full supply of all our wants; for the fruitfulness of the earth; for the glory of autumn, as the last harvests are gathered. We thank Thee for the goodness that crowns the year: for the sunshine and the rain, which, in Thy kindness, alike serve us, and, by blessing the evil and the good, show us Thy wonderful love. We bless Thee for that grace which moved Thee to create us in Thine own likeness, and to feed our souls with holy truth, with lofty hopes, and with visions of immortal joy. May we return to Thee, for all Thy favors, the love which they demand. May the world learn Thy truth, and obey Thee, through Christ the Lord. Amen.

OCTOBER FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ALL thy works shall praise thee, O Lord; and thy saints shall bless thee. They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power; to make known to the sons of men thy mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of thy kingdom. Thy kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.—Ps. cxlv: 10–13.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father: We have erred and strayed from Thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against Thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and have done those things which we ought not to have done. O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare Thou those who confess their faults. Restore Thou those who are penitent, according to Thy promises declared unto mankind, in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life; to the glory of Thy holy name. Amen.

OCTOBER FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FEAR thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.—Isa. xli: 10. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. . . . I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.—Phil. iv: 11-13. Godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content. I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.—I. Tim. vi: 6-8.

PRAYER.

FATHER in heaven, we seek Thy face! Help us to worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Thou art the giver of all good. And we praise Thee for Thy merciful providence which is over us all. Thou art with us in the light of day, and we sleep in safety beneath the shadow of Thy wings in the silence of night. Thou art our fortress, our rock, and our shield. We live, and move, and have our being in Thee. Thou art our all. Help us, Lord, to feel Thy nearness to us, that we may ever say, "Thou, God, seest us." Give us grace, and trust, and hope. Lift our hearts above all doubt and fear. Chase away every cloud of darkness from our minds, and smile upon us through Thy son. And to Thee, through his name, will we ascribe praises forevermore. Amen.

OCTOBER SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A WISE son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death. The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked. He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame. Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known. The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked. The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.—Prov. x: 1–9.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting Father, who, of Thy tender love towards mankind, hast sent Thy son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all mankind should follow the example of his great humility; mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OCTOBER SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD hath purposed in himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth.—Eph. i: 9, 10. Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.—Rev. xxi: 3, 4.

PRAYER.

CREATOR and Maker of all things, and Father of all souls, help us, Thy children, to see Thee, and adore Thee in all the works of Thy hand. Thine eternal power and Godhead from the creation of the world are clearly seen by the things which Thou hast made. Thou hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein, and Thou hast not left Thyself without witness among the children of men; for Thou doest good always, giving us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our mouths with food, and our hearts with gladness. Father, we cry unto Thee! Love us while we live. Be with us when we come to die. And, after death, pardoning all our sin, take us to be with Thee forever, through Christ Jesus. Amen.

OCTOBER EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honorable man than thou be bidden of him; and he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.—Luke xiv: 7-11.

PRAYER.

O HEAVENLY Father, Thy word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path: we humbly beseech Thee be pleased to open and enlighten our minds, through Jesus Christ who is the true light of the world, that we may understand Thy word in its plainness and purity, and frame accordingly the whole course of our lives. Amen.

OCTOBER NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together: and a little child shall lead them. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

O LORD of heaven and earth, our Father who dwellest not in temples made with hands, neither art worshipped with men's hands, as though Thou needest anything. But Thou givest to all, life and breath, and all things, and hast made of one blood all nations of men, to dwell on all the face of the earth. Grant us to seek Thee, and find Thee; and may we ever remember that Thou art not far from every one of us, for in Thee we live, and move, and have our being. Open Thou our eyes, and by Thy holy spirit do Thou shine into our minds, we pray Thee, till the heavens and the earth, and our own souls also, are full of God to our sight, and till we own Thee, and magnify Thee in all things. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A WISE son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke. A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame. Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner. There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches. Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labor shall increase. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.—Prov. xiii: 1–7, 11–14.

PRAYER.

O FATHER of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hast said, ask and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; grant, we beseech Thee, to our most humble supplications, the gift of Thy divine love, that we may ever love Thee with our whole hearts, and never cease from praising and glorifying Thy name. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ALL nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name. Teach me thy way, O Lord: I will walk in thy truth · unite my heart to fear thy name. I will praise thee, O Lord my God, with all my heart: and I will glorify thy name for evermore. For great is thy mercy towards me, and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell. But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, affection, and gracious, long-suffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.—Ps. xxxvi: 7. Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their reviling.—Isa. i: 7. Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break forth into singing, O mountains: for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted.—Isa. xlix: 13.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we have need of a friend, and there is none so good as Thou. Others may forsake us, Thou wilt not. Others may be deaf to our cries, Thou wilt not be. Others may weary of our asking, Thou wilt not. We are weak, Thou hast strength; come Thou and bless us. We are poor, Thou art rich; come thou and enrich our minds with Thy great wisdom, and our hearts with Thy tender love. We are ignorant, Thou knowest all things; come Thou and enlighten us with the knowledge of Thee, which gives eternal life. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; that if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thy heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.—Rom. x: 8–16.

PRAYER.

HEAVENLY Parent: Brought to the beginning of another day, we desire to approach Thee in the sincerity of unfeigned devotion, that we may worship Thee in spirit, and in truth. May we possess genuine faith in Thee, in ourselves, and in each other, and may we add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness fraternal kindness, and to fraternal kindness charity. Thus may we be preserved from impatience, ill-will, envy, pride and censoriousness, and cherish sympathy and benevolence to all we meet, so that we may be examples of believers in charity, purity, in faith and in spirit. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

EVERY man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God; ye are God's husbandry; ye are God's building. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy: for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man glory in men: for all things are yours; whether Paul or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.—I. Cor. iii: 8, 9, 21-23.

PRAYER.

FATHER in Heaven! Accept our sorrow for past transgressions, and may we never despise Thy goodness and forbearance, but may Thy long-suffering work in us repentance and continued amendment. Quicken us in the pursuit of spiritual things. Watch over our path, compass us about with Thy power, preserve us in our going out and coming in, and direct all our steps in the way of Thy commandments. Make us honest in our dealings; diligent in the performance of duty; innocent in conversation; meek, charitable and forgiving, and in all things acceptable with Thee. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WASH you, make you clean: put away the evil of your doings from before thine eyes; cease to do evil: learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow. Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured by the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.—Isa. i: 16–20.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven, we come to Thee in childlike trust, asking Thee to hear our prayer. Whom have we in heaven but Thee, and who on earth should claim our love as Thou? Father of our spirits, we thank Thee for all Thy gracious words. We thank Thee for Thy promises, so precious and true. And, as we think of all Thy tender mercies, we would call upon our souls, and all that is within us, to praise and glorify Thy name. And while we thank Thee for life and health, for friendship and friends, we would, above all, adore Thy grace, and praise Thy Love, which gave Thy son to save us from sin, and bring us to Thee! Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IT is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High—to show forth Thy loving-kindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night. For Thou, Lord, hast made me glad through Thy work. I will triumph in the works of Thy hands. O Lord, how great are Thy works! and Thy thoughts are very deep: Thou art most high for evermore. Thy throne is established of old: Thou art from everlasting. Thy testimonials are very sure: holiness becometh Thy house for ever.—Ps. xcii, xciii.

PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Parent, give us power to resist and overcome all temptations, and guard against all dangers; that we may not be the victims of accident or violence, of interest or passion, of fear or wrong desire. Surrounded by infirmity and dangerous allurements, with deceitful passions and weak resolutions, be unto us wisdom and strength. Instruct, support and encourage us, so that being prepared for every good work, we may grow towards the measure of the stature of our divine example, and with infirmities fewer, and graces stronger, may we go on in the ways of Thy laws, and in the words of Thy commandments, and finally reach the realm of peace and joy unfading. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOT as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us, therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.—Phil. iii: 12–16.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, our Father, for that divine nature which we inherit from Thee. We thank Thee that Thou hast made goodness its own reward,—that Thou hast made it our highest enjoyment, to be, and to do, good. Help us to find and follow the true and perfect life,—to guard Thy divine image within us from every stain of evil. Give us to see that happiness lies not in the possession of wealth, or ease, or station, but in the purity of our desires, and in the honest industry by which we can be useful. Aid us by Thy good spirit, that our thoughts may be rightly directed, and our hearts filled with fervent devotion, as we approach the throne of Thy heavenly grace. Forgive us all our sins, sanctify us by Thy truth, and save us in Thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: and if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain: ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable. But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.—I. Cor. xv: 12–21.

PRAYER.

OUR Father: animated this morning with the vigor of renewed life, we would give Thee that dedication of body, mind, and spirit, which is our reasonable service. Purify our hearts from all sin; eradicate every uncharitable and unkindly emotion. May benevolence and good-will control our thoughts, words, and deeds; may all haughtiness, pride and malice be expelled from our minds, and may humility, mercy and love prevail within us, so that we may cherish sentiments of benevolence towards all Thy great family, everywhere—regarding the earth as one neighborhood, and all the race as one vast brotherhood, whose God and Father Thou art, and unto whom we owe unceasing service. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE seed is the word of God. Those by the way-side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.—Luke viii: 11-15. In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thy hand; for thou knowest not whether shall prosper this or that, or whether they both alike shall be good.—Eccl. xi: 6.

PRAYER.

INFINITE and ever blessed Father, we praise and magnify Thy holy name. May we hallow it upon our lips, and in our lives. We rejoice that Thou art our Father, Benefactor, and everlasting Friend. Though we may forget ourselves, and our highest interests in life, Thou dost never leave nor forsake us. Thy heavenly care, and love, attend us every moment. Thy blessings come to us as freely as the air we breathe, and the light by which we see. Thou art royal in benevolence. May we continually praise Thee, and evermore rejoice in the God of our salvation. Amen.

OCTOBER TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I WILL open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: what we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established statutes, and appointed a law, which he commanded our fathers to make known to their children: that the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born: who should declare them to their children: that they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments.—Ps. lxxviii: 2–7.

PRAYER.

FATHER of Mercies, who through Thy son our Redeemer hast shown us the path of life: we beseech Thee to direct us by Thy spirit, that we may give earnest heed to Thy holy word; and grant, blessed Lord, that we may so receive, believe, and keep it, as to find the righteousness and peace and joy of the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

OCTOBER THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHEN the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water; that they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the Lord hath done this, and the holy one of Israel hath created it.—Isa. xli: 17–20.

PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Father, prepare us by Thy grace for the fulfilment of Thy wise design. And grant that in the fleeting show of time and sense, we may so number our days as to apply our hearts unto wisdom. Enable us, O Lord, to set Thee always before our eyes, and to discern Thee in all Thy wonderful ways. In the midst of our busiest pursuits and of our best enjoyments, may we remember that we are strangers and pilgrims in the earth; and while we look for the better country, may we so use the world as not abusing either it or ourselves. Walking trustfully, may we devote the strength and length of our days to the highest service, and peacefully pass into the heavenly rest. Amen.

OCTOBER THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

O GIVE thanks to the Lord of lords: for His mercy endureth for ever. . . . Who giveth food to all flesh: for His mercy endureth for ever.—Ps. cxxxvi: 3, 25. Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.—I. Cor. x: 31. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid. Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.—Rom. vi: 13-23.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven,—the source of life and the giver of all good: Thou hast taught us to look to Thee in prayer, and to worship Thee in spirit and in truth. Thou hast revealed Thyself to us as our best and dearest friend, watching over us by day, and protecting us by night. Thou hast taught us to put all our trust in Thee, for Thou wilt never leave us nor forsake us. We thank Thee that we are the children of Thy love; that Thou art leading us through all the changing scenes of life, and that wherever we may be, or whatever may befall us, we can say, from the fulness of our confidence and trust, Thou doest all things well. Help us, our Father, to worship Thee aright,—to open our hearts before Thee in gratitude and praise. Let Thy blessing rest upon us, and Thy spirit go with us, to guide us in the duties of life, and to Thy name be all praise and glory. Amen.

November.

Brown leaves that with aerial grace
Slip from your branch like birds a-wing,
Each leaving in the appointed place
Its bud of future Spring,

If we, God's conscious creatures, knew
But half your faith in our decay,
We should not tremble as we do
When summoned clay to clay;

But with an equal patience sweet,
We should put off this mortal gear,
In whatsoe'er new form is meet,
Content to reappear.

Knowing each germ of life He gives
Must have in Him its source and rise,
Being that of His being lives,
May change but never dies.

NOVEMBER FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

COMFORT ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.—Isa. xl: 1-5. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.—Isa. xl: 9. The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.—Isa. xxxv: 1.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven: give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom; and the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

NOVEMBER SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

CAST thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. If the clouds be full of rain they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.—Eccl. xi: 1-5. Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters.—Isa. xxxii: 20.

PRAYER.

OUR God and our Father, our souls find no rest away from Thee. Thou hast made us for Thyself, to look to Thee, to depend on Thee, to love Thee supremely, and serve Thee devotedly. But we have not called upon Thee. We have turned away from Thee. "We have forsaken the fountain of living water, and hewed out broken cisterns which can hold no water." O Lord, we are weary, and thirsty, and hungry, and though we would fain have filled ourselves with the things of this life, our souls refuse to be comforted with them and we turn to Thee. "In our Father's house there is bread enough and to spare, and we perish with hunger." Feed us, O Lord, with the bread of life. Give us to drink, that we may thirst no more, but have within us "wells of water springing up into everlasting life." Lead us in the way everlasting. Let Thine arms of love embrace the wanderer, and bring us to our Father's house, so shall our tongues sing aloud of Thy righteousness, and our souls which Thou hast redeemed shall bless Thy name for ever and ever. O Lord hear, forgive, accept and bless us. Amen.

NOVEMBER THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace. The mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the briar shall come up the myrtle tree. And it shall be unto the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.—Isa. lv: 12, 13. The memorial of virtue is immortal; because it is known with God, and with men. When it is present, men take example at it; and when it is gone they desire it: it weareth a crown, and triumpheth for ever, having gotten the victory, striving for undefiled rewards. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that which is measured by number of years; but wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. Thus the righteous that is dead shall condemn the ungodly which are living: and youth that is soon perfected, the many years and old age of the unrighteous —Apocrypha.

PRAYER.

HELP us to be doers as well as hearers of the word; help us to live as well as believe the gospel; help us practise as well as know Thy law; help us to bless others as well as receive blessings from Thee. May we be merciful even as we obtain mercy. May Thy law, written in our hearts, be practised by our hands. May we so profit by the lessons we hear, that our lives shall be ornaments to Thy church, useful to our country, and blessings to humanity. Pardon our sins, and quicken our hearts with Thy holy spirit; and unto Thy name shall be all the praise forever. Amen.

NOVEMBER FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

DOTH not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice? Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man. Hear: for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things. For my mouth shall speak truth: and wickedness is an abomination to my lips. Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors: for whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord.—Prov. viii: 1–7; 34, 35.

PRAYER.

INFINITE Father, always present with us, we know that we need not ask Thee to remember us; and though in the weakness of our petitions we thus entreat Thee, yet in the strength of our hearts we know that Thou needest no entreating, but rememberest us forever and ever. We thank Thee that all day long Thou hast us in Thy perfect care, and when the night comes, and we lay us down, that Thou still watchest over us, and givest to Thy beloved even in our sleep. Father, we will not ask Thee to draw nigh to us, for Thou livest, and movest, and hast Thy being in all things that are. But we would seek to draw near to Thee consciously, so that warmed by Thy fire, and strengthened by Thy light, we may, through our worship, serve Thee better all the days of our lives, and so Thy will may be done in us, as it is done in heaven, and shall be done, world without end. Amen.

NOVEMBER FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE heavens shall praise thy wonders, O Lord: thy faithfulness also in the congregation of the saints. For who in the heaven can be compared unto the Lord? who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the Lord? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him. O Lord God of hosts, who is a strong Lord like unto thee? or to thy faithfulness round about thee? Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain: thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm. The heavens are thine, the earth also is thine: as for the world and the fullness thereof, thou hast founded them. The north and the south thou hast created them: Tabor and Hermon shall rejoice in thy name. Thou hast a mighty arm: strong is thy hand, and high is thy right hand. Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: and in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.—Ps. lxxxix: 5-16.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father, who art the author of peace, and the lover of concord, in knowledge of whom standeth our eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom, grant us that peace which the world can neither give nor take away; that we, who in all our dangers rely on Thy goodness, may under Thy fatherly protection be defended against all adversities, and evermore rejoice in Thy blessed service, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

NOVEMBER SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHOSOEVER, therefore, resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid: for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience' sake. For, for this cause pay ye tribute also; for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render, therefore, to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor. Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.—Rom. xiii: 2–8.

PRAYER.

OUR God and Father, we thank Thee for the light of Thy truth and the help of Thy grace. As the world is made beautiful by the light of the sun, so may our souls receive beauty and strength from the gospel of Jesus Christ. May we look to Jesus as our guide, and faithfully follow in his steps. May we live not only for ourselves, but for the world. May we let our light so shine before men, that they may see our good works, and be led to glorify Thee. Let Thy kingdom come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

NOVEMBER SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.—Gal. vi: 3. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know.—I. Cor. viii: 2. Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations. For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs. Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him. Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth: yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand. One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind. He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.—Rom. xiv: 1-8.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we hallow Thy holy name upon our lips to-day. We praise and worship Thee with sincere hearts. We thank Thee for Thy many blessings to us, and ask a continuance of Thy favors. Thou art plenteous in mercy; be patient with us in our weakness; be kind to us in our uncharitableness; be forgiving towards us in our sinfulness. We are always in need of Thy mercy; extend Thy favors to us, O most merciful Father, and we will bless Thee, evermore. Amen.

NOVEMBER EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE Lord looketh on the heart.—I. Sam. xvi: 7. All we like sheep have gone astray.—Isa. liii: 6. There is none good but one, that is, God.—Matt. xix: 17. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.—I. John iii: 6-10.

PRAYER.

OUR Father who art in heaven, and on earth, and everywhere, we flee unto Thee, and for a moment would be conscious of Thy presence, and in the light of Thy countenance would we remember our joys and our sorrows, our duties, our transgressions and our hopes; and lift up to Thee the glad psalm of gratitude for all that we rejoice in, and aspire toward the measure of a perfect being, and so worship Thee that we shall serve Thee all the days of our lives with a gladsome and accepted service. So may the prayer of our hearts be acceptable unto Thee, and appear in our daily life fair as the lilies, and lasting as the stars. Enable us to see Thee alike in the serene and in the stormy days, and to realize that Thou givest us, equally in prosperity and in adversity, the sacrament of Thy benedictions. Amen.

NOVEMBER NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? and who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.—Ps. xxiv: 1–5. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For He spake, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance.—Ps. xxxiii: 8–12.

PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Father! Accept our regret and sorrow for all past transgression; and grant that a sense of Thy forbearance and long-suffering work in us repentance and amendment of life. Convince us of our dependence upon Thee. Quicken us in the pursuit of goodness. Watch over our paths. Compass us about with Thy power. Preserve us in our going out and coming in. Direct all our steps in the way of Thy commandments. Make us conscientious in dealing; diligent in the performance of duty; innocent in all intents; meek, charitable, forgiving towards others, watchful over ourselves, and ever mindful of Thee. Amen.

NOVEMBER TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ON the next day much people that were come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees, and went forth to meet him, and cried Hosanna, blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord. The people therefore that was with him when he called Lazarus out of his grave, and raised him from the dead, bare record. For this cause the people also met him, for that they heard that he had done this miracle. The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, Perceive ye how ye prevail nothing? behold, the world is gone after him. And he answered, Now is my soul troubled: and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and I will glorify it again. The people therefore that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, an angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes.—John xii: 12–14; 17–19; 27–30.

PRAYER.

THOU Father, who seest we are not wise enough for our own direction, nor strong enough for our own defence, let Thy light guide us, Thy providence protect us, and Thy grace prepare us for all duties and experiences, so that enduced with continual aid from Thee, we may be armed by Thy defence, and preserved from all dangers, and so be more than conquerors over all besetting sins and evils. Amen.

NOVEMBER ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WITHHOLD not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy loving-kindness and thy truth continually preserve me. Innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up: they are more than the hairs of my head: therefore my heart faileth me. Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me: O Lord make haste to help me.—Ps. xl: 11-15. Let all those who seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: let such as love thy salvation say continually, The Lord be magnified. Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to usward: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine ears hast thou opened: burnt-offering and sin-offering hast thou not required. Then said I, Lo, I come to do what thy law commands. I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.—Ps. xl: 5-8.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we acknowledge that it is our duty to forgive those who trespass against us, as Thou forgivest us our trespasses against Thee. Teach us to love our enemies, to do good to those who hate us, and to pray for those who despitefully use us. Give us the love of Jesus, who prayed for his murderers on the cross, and help us to follow him in all things, that we may honor his holy religion. Gracious Father, fill our hearts with the spirit of his forgiveness toward all who offend us or speak evil against us, or do us any kind of injury, so that we may be truly his disciples. And through him we will give to Thee all the praise and the glory forever. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

KEEP thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.—Ps. xxxiv: 13. Restore unto me the joys of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. Thou desirest not sacrifice, else I would give it: thou delightest not in burnt-offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.—Ps. li: 12–17.

PRAYER.

DEAR Father in heaven, and earth, and everywhere, we thank Thee for Thy loving kindness and tender mercy, which are new every morning, and fresh every evening, and which fail not at noonday. We thank Thee for the world around us, and above us, and beneath us, and for that other world, which ourselves are, of which this material realm is but the temporary resting-place. We thank Thee that Thou hast created us from perfect love, and dost watch over us with such perpetual providence that all things work together for good, and that Thou wilt lose no one of Thy human flock, but wilt lead them all by the hand into never-ending bliss. O Perfect Love, as we remember who and what Thou art, we are sure of Thine infinite kindness, and having Thee we are sure of all we need besides. Help us to grow into Thine image till we come unto the full stature of Thine obedient children. Amen.

NOVEMBER THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THORNS and snares are in the way of the froward.—Prov. xxii : 5. The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.—Isa. lvii : 20, 21. This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of the oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty. If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword; and his off-spring shall not be satisfied with bread. Those that remain of him shall be buried in death : and his widows shall not weep. Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay; he may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver. He buildeth his house as a moth, and as a booth that the keeper maketh. The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered; he openeth his eyes and he is not. Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night. The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place. For God shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand. Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place.—Job xxvii : 13–23.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who makest Thy sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendest rain on the just and on the unjust, strengthen our hearts by Thy spirit, minister truth to our needy minds, enliven our conscience, and pour Thy holy love upon all earnest, asking souls. We thank Thee that Thy justice presides over the world, and out of evil bringeth forth good continually, making the wrath of man praise Thee. Teach us to love all men. May we be nobler, holier, truer and more faithful. Amen.

NOVEMBER FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THIS is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.—Titus iii: 8. Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.—Jas. ii: 21, 22, 24, 26.

PRAYER.

TEACH us, Heavenly Parent, so to watch over our ways, that we may not be surprised by sudden temptations, or a careless spirit, or overcome by folly or vanity. Set a watch before our mouths, and so guard the doors of our lips, that we offend not with our tongues, either against piety or charity. Let our passions and affections be so disciplined, that we may not by deliberation and purpose, nor yet by levity, rashness or inconsideration, offend against Thee. Strengthen our faith, confirm our hope, and give us a daily increase of charity, so that, according to our opportunities and capacities, we may grow from grace unto grace, until we receive the consummation of faith and hope in the realities of Thine eternal kingdom. Amen.

NOVEMBER FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BUT covet earnestly the best gifts.—I. Cor. xii: 31. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children: and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometime darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light; (for the fruit of the spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth:) proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.—Eph. v: 1–11.

PRAYER.

FATHER in heaven, we hallow Thy name, for it is Love. Thou hast required us to have faith in Thee, and we believe. Thou hast bid us hope in Thee, and we are hopeful. Yet more than all hast Thou enjoined upon us that charity which "believeth all things, and hopeth all things," and which in itself comprehends all Christian graces. Most fervently do we pray that this spirit may live in our hearts, and find expression in our lives; that we may put away all indifference to the good of others, and live for our race, and thus live to Thy glory. Oh, deepen within us the conviction that charity is the substance of the Christian life, and the bond of perfectness. Amen.

NOVEMBER SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THUS spake Jesus unto the people in the synagogue at Capernaum: Labor not for the meat that perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. I am that bread of life. Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.—John vi: 27, 48–51, 58.

PRAYER.

ALL-SEEING Father, we bless Thee for Thy care over us the past night. Give us Thy continual protection on the ensuing day; keep us from the evil, and may we see Thy divine will in small or great events of Thy ordaining. Make us to walk in Thy ways; diligent to perform the day's work set before us; and in all trials and cares, in the infirmities of our own and others' dispositions, in all crosses and disappointments, may we look to Thee for help, and find in Thee all needed aid and strength. Amen.

NOVEMBER SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND they heard a great voice from heaven, saying unto them, Come up hither. And there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. We give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come: because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned.—Rev. xi: 12–17. Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.—Rev. v: 12, 13.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven: may the good tidings which a Savior brought be received in all their fullness, and the great joy they produce exclude from us the love of sin. Fill our hearts with Thy spirit. Let Thy righteousness and peace possess our souls, that Thy kingdom may come, and Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Make us faithful and obedient followers of Thy son, that our lives may be radiant like his. Keep us ever in Thy love, and through Thy grace may we overcome the world, enter into Thy joy, and be crowned with Thy salvation, through Jesus, our Master and Redeemer. Amen.

NOVEMBER EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THROUGH the tender mercies of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet in the way of peace. How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings; that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good; that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth! There is sprung up a light for the righteous, and joyful gladness for such as are true of heart. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God; be honor and glory, through Jesus Christ, forever and ever. Amen.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

ADORABLE Father! Thou hast given to us a night of mercy, may we begin the day with praise, so that its events and employments may be sanctified by Thee. Take us into Thy protection, bodily and spiritually. In our ignorance teach us, and lead us from all wanderings into Thy fold. Show us that this world passeth away, while we shall abide forever. Keep us as the apple of Thine eye, Oh Thou who dwellest in the heavens, and in whom we live, and move, and have our being. Amen.

NOVEMBER NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AT a certain time, Jesus went from Capernaum, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, and entered into a house, and would have no man know it: but he could not be hid. And behold, a woman of Canaan, whose young daughter had an unclean spirit, heard of him, and came and fell at his feet, and cried unto him, saying: Have mercy on me, O Lord, son of David: my daughter is grievously vexed with a demon. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. Then said she, Lord, help me. But Jesus said unto her, Let the children first be filled; for it is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it unto the dogs. And she answered and said unto him, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their master's table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her: O woman, great is thy faith; be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And when she was come to her house, she found the demon gone out, and her daughter laid upon the bed.—Matt. xv:21–28; Mark vii:24–29.

PRAYER.

FATHER of Spirits, whom truly to know is eternal life, whose service is perfect freedom; grant us Thy heavenly grace, that we may thoughtfully honor the revelation from on high; and do Thou so quicken us into the inner life of Thy holy word, that our faith may be centered in Thine infinite and everlasting love. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO is like unto the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high, yet humbleth himself to behold the things that are in heaven, and in the earth!—Ps. cxiii: 6. His work is honorable and glorious, and his righteousness endureth for ever.—Ps. cxi: 3. Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal.—I. Cor. xii: 4–7. Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.—I. Cor. ix: 24, 25.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Heavenly Father, though we may not see Thee with our eyes, we thank Thee for the faith by which Thou art made manifest to our souls. We know Thou art not far from every one of us, and we pray that we may feel Thy presence. Help us to see Thee as Thou art—our kind and loving Father—that we may lean upon Thee in our weakness and dependence, and feel that Thou art our everlasting strength. O Lord, increase our faith in Thee, and in Thy dear son. May we look unto Jesus as the Good Shepherd. And may we come to Thee as the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who art above all, and through all, and in all. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FOR as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling? But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.—I. Cor. xii: 12-21.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, we bow before Thee, praying that Thou wouldst grant us, according to the riches of Thy goodness, to be strengthened in motive and will by Thy spirit, having Christ formed within us, the hope of glory, that being rooted and grounded in love, we may be able to comprehend Thy love which passeth knowledge, and be filled with Thy fullness. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another; not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; distributing to the necessity of saints, given to hospitality. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.—Rom. xii: 13–18.

PRAYER.

FATHER of mercies, who alone canst bring the will and affections of man into harmony with Thine own, grant unto us that we may love whatever Thou commandest, and desire whatever Thou dost promise, that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE hope of the ungodly is like dust that is blown away with the wind; like a thin froth that is driven away with the storm; like as the smoke which is dispersed here and there with a tempest, and passeth away as the remembrance of a guest that tarrieth but a day. But the righteous live for evermore; their reward also is with the Lord, and the care of them is with the Most High. Therefore shall they receive a glorious kingdom, and a beautiful crown from the Lord's hand; for with his right hand shall he cover them, and with his arm shall he protect them.—Apocrypha.

PRAYER.

HELP us to turn our thoughts to Thee, our Heavenly Parent, and open our hearts that we may receive Thy holy spirit. And while we think of Thy watchful care that has been over us all the days of our lives, may our hearts grow strong in hope. May we battle with our sins in the hope of victory. May we be cheerful in sickness, with the hope of health. May we be patient in affliction, with the hope that Thou wilt lift every burden from our hearts. May we overcome the fear of death with the hope of a brighter world, and a purer life on high. Help us, we pray Thee, as we hope for happiness and peace, so to direct our lives that we may receive and enjoy the fulfilment of our hope. And to Thy name be all the praise forevermore. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SO then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumbling-block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way. Let not then your good be evil spoken of: for the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.—Rom. xiv: 12-19.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Thou art the Father of all, the Judge of all, the Savior of all. With Thee is the fountain of life: from Thee all blessings flow; in Thee we live, and move, and have our being. Thy Kingdom is over all; Thy glory is above all. Of Thee and through Thee, and to Thee are all things. Be thine the dominion, and the might, and the praise. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WHO hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground. He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and we hid as it were our faces from him: he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; and the gracious purpose of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand.—Isa. liii: 1–11.

PRAYER.

LORD God all-powerful, and Father all-merciful, who hast brought us safely to the beginning of this day, protect us by Thy providence, that during the course of it we may not fall into sin, but that all our thoughts, words, and actions, being directed by Thy holy grace, may tend to the accomplishment of Thy divine will; that during this life, and the eternity of the life to come, we may, through Thy divine assistance, be delivered and saved, O Savior of the World, who livest and reignest, one God, world without end. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND again, departing from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon, he came unto the sea of Galilee. And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech Jesus to put his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue: and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Be opened. And straightway his ears were opened; and his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many other persons, and cast them down at Jesus' feet, and he healed them; insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see; and they glorified the God of Israel.—Mark vii: 31–37; Matt. xv: 30, 31.

PRAYER.

GRACIOUS Father of us all, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: we thank Thee for Thy goodness, in sending Thy son to be the Savior of the world. The brightness of Thy glory, and the image of Thy person, he came to teach us of Thee. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; they that dwell in the land and shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. We thank Thee, O God, that when this darkness was upon the people's mind, and this shadow upon the people's heart, Thou didst open Thy heaven, and pour in the light of everlasting love, and of immortality, into the human soul, through Thy son, Jesus Christ, and that through him we can see, and seeing love Thee, our unfailing Friend and Savior. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HAVING therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.—II. Cor. vii: 1, 10. Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.—II. Cor. ix: 11, 15. And Jesus cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw aught. And he looked up, and said: I see men as trees walking. After that, he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.—Mark viii: 22-27.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father, from whom all things come, grant to us, Thy servants, that by Thy holy inspiration we may be filled with those things that are good, and by Thy merciful guiding may perform the same, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went; and he made as though he would have gone further. But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them. And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them. Saying, The Lord is risen indeed.—Luke xxiv: 28–34.

PRAYER.

FATHER Almighty, Thou who dwellest in the high and holy place, with him, also, who is of an humble and contrite spirit: enable us to come before Thee in the lowliness of worship, seeking the blessing of Thy merciful presence. The Lord bless us, and keep us. May He cause His love to subdue every sinful feeling. May He cause His face to shine upon us, and give us peace and rest. Amen.

NOVEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN spake Jesus to the multitude, and to his disciples, saying, The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat: all therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not. For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. But all their works they do for to be seen of men: they make broad their phylacteries, and enlarge the borders of their garments. And love the uppermost rooms at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi! But be not ye called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.—Matt. xxiii: 1–8.

PRAYER.

WE thank Thee, O our Father, for all that Jesus has been and is to our race; for him as our Good Shepherd, leading us into the green pastures, and by the side of the still waters of life; for him as our Guide, who, while he points the road, himself leads the way to heaven; for him as our Redeemer, who will not fail nor be discouraged, till he has set judgment in the earth, till he has restored the last wanderer, wiped the tears from every eye, and brought all into the one fold guided by the Good Shepherd. Oh, keep us in his love and in Thine. We ask all through him. Amen.

NOVEMBER THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEN there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He must increase, but I must decrease. He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the spirit by measure unto him.—John iii: 25–34.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, who didst send Thy beloved son into the world to seek and to save that which was lost, we beseech Thee to look favorably upon us, and to forgive all our offences. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquities, and cleanse us from our sins. Make us more faithful to our own souls, to each other, and to Thee, through the guidance of him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

SPECIAL—THANKSGIVING.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

I WILL praise thee with my whole heart: before the gods will I sing praise unto thee. I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy loving-kindness, and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.—Ps. cxxxviii: 1, 2. Thou visitest the earth, and waterest it: thou greatly enrichest it with the river of God, which is full of water: thou preparest them corn, when thou hast so provided for it. Thou waterest the ridges thereof abundantly: thou settlest the furrows thereof: thou makest it soft with showers: thou blessest the springing thereof; thou crownest the year with thy goodness.—Ps. lxv: 9-11. The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.—Ps. cxxxviii: 8. O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth for ever. Praise ye the Lord.—Ps. cxvii: 1-2.

PRAYER.

BENEFICENT Parent, we thank Thee for the abundant blessings we enjoy; for the bounty of the harvest, and the overflowing cup held to our lips by Thine indulgent hand; for health of body, for peace of mind, for home, and country, and religion, and the hope of heaven. We bless Thee for the gladsome gatherings of those long severed, which this day witnesses, and that those who are gone from earth, will one day be met again, in the house not made with hands. O qualify us to lift the psalm of thanksgiving to Thee, and may the utterance of our gratitude this day be a token of our continual offering, a perpetual sacrifice of thanksgiving and obedience, of worship, and love, and service. Amen.

December.

Every inmost aspiration
Is God's angel undefiled,
And in every "Oh, my Father!"
Slumbers deep a "Here, my child."

A quiet, patient heart that meekly serves its Lord,
God's finger joys to touch; it is His harpsichord.

Fling wide the portals of your heart,
Make it a temple, set apart
From earthly use, for Heaven's employ,
Adorned with prayer and love and joy.
So shall your Father enter in,
And new and nobler life begin.

DECEMBER FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GIVE to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.—Matt. v: 42. For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thy hand unto.—Deut. xv: 11, 10. Give alms of such things as ye have.—Luke xi: 41. If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink.—Prov. xxv: 21.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

DECEMBER SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THERE was a little city, and a few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and beseiged it, and built great bulwarks against it. Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city: yet no man remembered that same poor man. Then said I, Wisdom is better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom is despised, and his words are not heard. The words of wise men are heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools. Wisdom is better than weapons of war.—Eccl. ix: 14–18.

PRAYER.

FATHER of All! We would this day remember that justice and equity are the pillars of Thy throne; that Thy commands are right and good altogether, and yet that we have broken and disregarded them, and forgotten Thee, whose name should ever be on our lips and in our hearts. Pardon our errors and faults, open our eyes so to see Thee that we may reverence Thy character, love Thine excellence, and keep Thy commandments. May we never take Thy name in vain, or forsake or forget Thee, who will never leave nor cease from remembering us. Cleanse our hearts from all impure and inordinate desires; keep us from all injustice; make us blameless and harmless, loving Thee supremely and mankind universally. Amen.

DECEMBER THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND the Lord God said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not; am I my brother's keeper? And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand. When thou tillest the ground it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth. And Cain said unto the Lord, My punishment is more than I can bear. Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me.—Gen. iv: 9–14. And the Lord God took the man and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.—Gen. ii; 15–17.

PRAYER.

O GOD, the Creator of all things, and the Father of all mankind; who causest the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man; who bringest forth fruit out of the earth, and dost bless the springing thereof; be pleased graciously to look down from Thy holy habitation in heaven upon us Thy people, and upon the land wherein we dwell; that both it may become fruitful and yield its increase, and we may grow in wisdom and in goodness, bringing forth plenteously the fruit of good works, as disciples of him who came to sow in us the seeds of eternal life. Amen.

DECEMBER FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ONLY fear the Lord, and serve him in truth, with all your heart. —I. Sam. xii: 24. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy towards them that fear him.—Ps. ciii: 2. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.—Ps. xxxiii: 8. Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.—Ps. xxxiii: 18. Every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward.—Heb. ii: 2. Therefore my heart is glad, and my spirit rejoiceth: yea, my flesh dwelleth in security.—Ps. xvi: 9. Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope.—Rom. xv: 13.

PRAYER.

O GOD our Father, may we be followers of Thee as dear children. May our tempers be mild, compassionate and forgiving. May anger, malice, and hatred have no control over us; and when we feel ourselves to be in any way injured, may we remember our Savior, who meekly endured so many reproaches, indignities and cruelties that he might be an example to all men. Give us his gentle, forbearing and forgiving spirit. May his spirit be always in our hearts, restraining us when wronged, and keeping us from evil when tried and tempted. Let not the sun go down upon our wrath; and however pursued and opposed, may we keep our hearts in subjection to Thy law, and never suffer them to be brought under the dominion of sin, and finally save us everlastingly, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECEMBER FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ON a certain day, when Jesus was near the Lake of Galilee, he saw great multitudes; and he said unto his disciples, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And a certain scribe came, and said unto him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the son of man hath not where to lay his head.—Matt. viii: 18-20; Luke ix: 5-7, 8.—Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.—Isa. lv: 1, 2.

PRAYER.

MERCIFUL Father, we adore thee as the God of all grace; as the Fountain of all goodness, as the ever blessed and glorious Father of the spirits of all flesh. We rejoice that there is forgiveness with Thee; that Thou art ready to pardon our iniquities, and to receive to Thy extended arms those who have forgotten Thy law. For Thy rich mercy's sake, forgive the sins with which we are chargeable; forgive our neglect of Thee; forgive our trespasses against each other. Grant that our transgressions may not bring Thy displeasure, and may we never incur the penalties which fall upon the wicked; but may we be kept from evil all the days of our lives, and finally be brought to love Thee with perfect love, and serve Thee with a willing and perfect and eternal service. Amen.

DECEMBER SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed, he fell asleep: and there came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water, and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, Master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind, and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is your faith? and they, being afraid, wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey him.—Luke viii: 22, 25.

PRAYER.

THOU knowest our frame: Thou rememberest that we are dust. Save us, we beseech Thee, from the infirmity which fears that Thou wilt cast off forever and be favorable no more. Inspire us with a living trust in Thy perpetual goodness; that we may be saved from blindness of mind and hardness of heart, from faithless prayer and prayerless faith, from envy, and from all uncharitableness; from the tyranny of passion, and the lust of pride; from the adversity that doubts Thee, and the prosperity that denies Thee; from weariness of life, and from the bitterness of death; and in the day of affliction, when our pilgrimage is under a cloud,—in the night of bereavement, when the voices of loved ones have gone away into silence,—and in the hour of our own departure, O, Father, bless us and save us. Amen.

DECEMBER SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

IF thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.—Matt. xviii: 15. Admonish a friend: it may be he hath not done it: and if he have done it, that he do it no more. Admonish thy friend: it may be he hath not said it; and, if he have, that he speak it not again. Admonish a friend: for many times it is a slander: and believe not every tale.—Ecclus xix: 13, 14, 15, 16. Let your speech be always with grace.—Col. iv: 6. As he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.—I. Pet. i: 15.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father! beings of but yesterday, whose days are a hand-breadth, we adore Thee whose years are from everlasting to everlasting. We leave our hesitancy in the dust; we are crushed before the moth; we fade as doth the leaf, but Thou hast life and immortality, which thou wilt bestow upon us, Thy children. Impress upon our hearts the reality of our eternal destiny. Under the disquietudes of our earthly pilgrimage, cheer and console us with the abiding reflection, that Thou art working out for us and in us, a glory far exceeding eternal. Make us continual aspirants for that better world, where we shall dwell with Thee and all we love, in the possession of an undefiled and unfading inheritance. Amen.

DECEMBER EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE pride of the height, the clear firmament, the beauty of heaven with his glorious show: the sun when it appeareth, declaring at his rising a marvellous instrument, the work of the Most High: great is the Lord that made it, and at his commandment it runneth hastily. He made the moon also to serve in her season, for a declaration of times, and a sign of the world. The month is called after her name, increasing wonderfully in her changing, being an instrument of the armies above, shining in the firmament of heaven; the beauty of heaven, the glory of the stars, an ornament giving light in the highest places of the Lord. At the commandment of the Holy One they will stand in their order, and never faint in their watches. Look upon the rainbow and praise him that made it; very beautiful it is in the brightness thereof; it compasseth the heaven about with a glorious circle, and the hands of the Most High have bended it.—Ecclus xliii: 1-12. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.—Heb. x: 23. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines: for it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace.—Heb. xiii: 9.

PRAYER.

FATHER, Thou hast committed to our trust the work of life, and Thou dost work through the hearts of Thy children. May we so run the race of life as to obtain the prize. May we so contend as to obtain an imperishable crown. May we who think we stand take heed lest we fall. O Thou, who art faithful, do not suffer us to be tempted beyond that which we are able to endure; but with temptation furnish also the way of escape, that we may be able to overcome it, and serve Thee acceptably and continually. Amen.

DECEMBER NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WATCH unto prayer.—I. Pet. iv: 7. And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray and not to faint.—Luke xviii: 1. While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him. Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.—Matt. xii: 40–50.

PRAYER.

OUR heavenly Father, we thank Thee for the word of life, by which we are helped to trust in Thee. We give thanks to Thee for the mercy that endures forever. We rejoice that Thou art always by our side: not to uphold us in folly or in sin, but to bless us; and that Thou dost bless us, in pain and in pleasure. We praise Thee that through Thy grace we shall live evermore, to declare Thy works. We thank Thee for the excellences of Jesus Christ. Help us to rejoice in his truth, and obey his word. Be our strength, that we may resist all evil, and bear up under trial. Be our song, that our souls may be filled with joy. Be our salvation, that we may be lifted out of sin, and darkness, and fear, into goodness, and light, and immortal peace, there to abide forever. Amen.

DECEMBER TENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THE preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits. Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established. The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.—Prov. xvi: 1–6. A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones.—Prov. xvii: 22.

PRAYER.

GOD of the morning light, and Father of our spirits: we renew our thankfulness to Thee, and confess our obligations. We thank Thee for the refreshment of sleep—for the return of this day's light—for the continuance of health—and for all the renewed tokens of Thy bounty. Prepare us for all duties, and impress upon our minds that we know not what a day may bring forth. Let us be thoughtful and obedient in all things. In all our intercourse with the world, let justice and benevolence guide our conduct; if we see wrong, let us endeavor to correct it; if we see suffering, let us have compassion. Let us pass through each day with reverence and godly fear, and be brought to each evening with satisfaction and profit. Let all our days be spent in usefulness, and when these days are finished, take us to Thyself in peace and rest forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER ELEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BY his commandment he maketh the snow to fall apace, and sendeth swiftly the lightnings of his judgment. Through this the treasures are opened, and clouds fly forth as fowls. By his great power he maketh the clouds firm, and the hailstones are broken small. At his sight the mountains are shaken, and at his will the south wind bloweth. The noise of the thunder maketh the earth to tremble, so doth the northern storm and whirlwind: as birds flying he scattereth the snow, and the falling down thereof is as the lighting of grasshoppers: the eye marvelleth at the beauty of the whiteness thereof, and the heart is astonished at the raining of it. The hoar-frost also as salt he poureth on the earth, and being congealed it lieth on the top of sharp stakes. When the cold north wind bloweth, and the water is congealed into ice, it abideth upon every gathering together of water, and clotheth the waters as with a breastplate. It devoureth the mountains, and burneth the wilderness, and consumeth the grass as fire.—Ecclus. xliii: 13-21.

PRAYER.

O HOLY One, who hast abundantly asssured us that Thou art a gracious and tender Father to the penitent, and wilt hear in compassion the prayers of all who confess their sins before Thee: Show us our transgressions as they are, we pray Thee, and pardon us for the evil we have done, as we sincerely repent. May we have that godly sorrow for our sins which leads to true repentance. All that Thou hast, dost Thou give to Thy obedient and faithful children. May we have the faith that works by love and purifies the heart. Amen.

DECEMBER TWELFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESS the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, thou art very great; thou art clothed with honor and majesty: who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind: who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire; who laid the foundations of the earth, that it should not be removed for ever.—Ps. civ: 1-5. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever. Who can utter the mighty acts of the Lord? who can show forth all his praise?—Ps. cvi: 13-18. Oh, that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men.—Ps. cvii: 21.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, we are encouraged to lift up our hearts in prayer; for Thou art good, and ready to forgive, and plenteous in mercy. Thine ear is ever open to the petitions of Thy children, and Thou wilt listen to every prayer which ascends from the sincere worshipper. Blessed be Thy name that Thou art mindful of our wants, and that in the day of trouble we can call upon Thee; that when we lack wisdom, Thou wilt give liberally, and that when we are weak and sinful, Thou art ready to uphold and purify us. Holy Father, give us ever a prayerful heart, and grant that our petitions may rise as incense before Thee, and that the lifting of our devotions may be as the morning and evening sacrifice. Amen.

DECEMBER THIRTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

SWEAR not at all: neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King: neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communications be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.—Matt. v: 34–37. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.—Ex. xx: 7. Accustom not thy mouth to swearing; neither use thyself to the naming of the Holy One. . . . A man that useth much swearing shall be filled with iniquity, and the plague shall never depart from his house.—Ecclus xxiii: 9, 11. Swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yea be yea, and your nay nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.—Jas. v: 13.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY God and everlasting Father, in whom we live and move and have our being; we render Thee praises for our preservation from the beginning of our lives to this day. And since it is of Thy mercy, O Father, that another day is added to our lives; we dedicate our souls and our bodies to Thee and Thy service, in a sober, righteous, and godly life: in which resolution, do Thou, O merciful God, confirm and strengthen us; that, as we grow in age, we may grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

DECEMBER FOURTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WE desire to hear of thee, what thou thinkest.—Acts xxviii: 22. For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.—Prov. xxiii: 7. The thought of foolishness is sin—Prov. xxiv: 9. Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; these are the things which defile a man.—Matt. xv: 18-20. The Lord searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts.—I. Chron. xxviii: 9. Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when He cometh shall find so doing.—Luke xii: 42, 43.

PRAYER.

FATHER, Thou dost render to every one according to his works. May we obtain spiritual life through patient continuance in well-doing; may we have the recompense of a good life. We thank Thee that Thou hast no respect of person; that in every nation he that worketh righteousness is accepted of Thee. Being redeemed from guilt, give us peace in God, and may we rejoice in the hope of the glory which he will confer; may we be saved by the ministry of Jesus. As he was raised to spiritual blessedness, so may we walk in newness of life. Amen.

DECEMBER FIFTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

HE that giveth unto the poor shall not lack.—Prov. xxviii: 27. He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.—Prov. xiv: 21. He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.—Prov. xxii: 9. Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive—Acts xx: 35. Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal, it shall be measured to you again.—Luke vi: 38.

PRAYER.

HOLY Father, to whom we are indebted for life and all its blessings; we lift our thoughts in gratitude to Thee for the preservation of our lives through another day. We praise Thy name for Thy blessings and comforts, and we thank Thee that we are permitted to call upon Thee as our Father who art in heaven—that we can present our supplications unto Thee with the assurance that thou art a prayer-hearing and a prayer-answering God. Thy mercies have been new every morning and fresh every evening. Thou hast guarded our dwelling from danger, and permitted us to live in security and peace. We acknowledge with grateful hearts our dependence upon Thee for all we possess, and for all we hope to enjoy here and hereafter; and we rejoice that Thou hast given us the assurance of Thy continued love and protection in all the changes of time and eternity. Amen.

DECEMBER SIXTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

A CERTAIN man planted a vineyard, and set a hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. And at the season he sent to the husbandmen a servant, that he might receive from the husbandmen of the fruit of the vineyard. And they caught him, and beat him, and sent him away empty. And again he sent unto them another servant; and at him they cast stones, and wounded him in the head, and sent him away shamefully handled. And again he sent another; and him they killed, and many others; beating some, and killing some. Having yet therefore one son, his well beloved, he sent him also last unto them, saying, They will reverence my son. But those husbandmen said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and the inheritance shall be ours. And they took him, and killed him, and cast him out of the vineyard. What shall therefore the Lord of the vineyard do? he will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others. And have ye not read this scripture: The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?—Matt. xxi: 1-16.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our Father! Thou hast searched us and known us! Thou knowest our sitting down and our rising up. Thou understandest our thoughts from afar. Thou seest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways; for before the word is upon our tongue, behold, O Lord, Thou knowest it altogether! Search us, O God, and know our hearts; try us and know our thoughts; and see if there be any wicked way in us, and lead us in the way everlasting! Amen.

DECEMBER SEVENTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

WE may speak much and yet come short, wherefore in sum, He is all. How shall we be able to magnify him? for He is great above all his works. When ye glorify the Lord exalt him as much as ye can; for even yet will he far exceed: and when ye exalt him put forth all your strength, and be not weary, for ye never can go far enough. Who hath seen him that he might tell us? and who can magnify him as he is? There are yet hid greater things than these be, for we have seen but a few of his works.—Ecclus. xliii: 27–32.

PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY Father, we thank Thee that Thou hast filled our earthly lives with good, and hast also given us the hope of immortal glory, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead; that Thou hast made him Lord of the dead and of the living. We rejoice in the good tidings of good, in the comfort of Thy word, in the assurance that as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. We praise Thee for the abiding faith that Jesus shall conquer all souls, and that all shall be made alive in him. And while we seek to honor Thy son, may we be the better for his life. May we bow our souls before him, and acknowledge him as Lord, by showing in our lives his loving spirit. May we be meek, and patient, and kind, and holy. May we turn from the sin which besets us, to that holiness which has given our Savior the name above all others. Father, deliver us from all evil, through Christ Thy son. Amen.

DECEMBER EIGHTEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AT a certain time, when Jesus was at dinner in the house of a Pharisee, behold a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus reclined at meat in the house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had invited him to his house saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus, answering, said unto him, There was a certain creditor, who had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven: for she loved much; but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little. And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.—Matt. xxvi: 6–13. Luke vii: 36–47.

PRAYER.

O LORD our Father, who hast taught us that all our doings without charity are nothing worth; send Thy Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of charity, the very bond of peace, and of all virtues; without which, whosoever liveth is counted dead before Thee: grant this through the teachings of Thine only son. Amen.

DECEMBER NINETEENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND it came to pass, that as I made my journey, and was come nigh unto Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone from heaven a great light round about me. And I fell unto the ground, and heard a voice saying unto me, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? And I answered, Who art thou, Lord? And he said unto me, I am Jesus of Nazareth, whom thou persecutest. And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me. And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said unto me, Arise, and go into Damascus: and there it shall be told thee of all things which are appointed for thee to do. And when I could not see for the glory of that light, being led by the hand of them that were with me, I came into Damascus. And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.—Acts xxii: 6–13.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, send down Thy spirit like a ray of light upon our path, and deliver us from evil. Keep our feet from falling, our eyes from tears, and our souls from death. In the midst of health may we remember Thee, our Witness and Judge, and use every blessing as a sacred gift. In the darkness as well as in the light, may we trace the working of Thy power, and consider that the same Being, the Lord, gracious and merciful, gives and takes away; and still may we bless Thy name. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds: who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. And Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands. They shall perish, but thou remainest: and they shall all wax old as doth a garment: and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed; but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.—Heb. i: 1–12. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father.—Phil. ii: 10, 11.

PRAYER.

EVER blessed Father, we would tender to Thee our gratitude that Thou didst send Thy son, to give himself a ransom for our sins. We rejoice in his love, which was stronger than death; in his benevolence, which no ingratitude could weary; in his mercy, which extended to all men; in his humility, which made him one with the lowly and poor; and in his fidelity, which led him forward amid every discouragement. Especially do we rejoice that he will fail not nor be discouraged, till he has set judgment in the earth: till he has restored the last wanderer, wiped the tears from every eye, conquered death, and exalted all to a state of endless glory. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.—Eph. iv: 31, 32. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God: and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto a holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the spirit.—Eph. ii: 19–22.

PRAYER.

SUPREME Father, who art the law-giver of heaven and earth; we rejoice to know that Thy laws are all righteous; that they are formed by infinite wisdom to secure the highest happiness to the whole world. We bless Thee that they are impartial and just, and destined to equalize the condition of society, and bind Thy children together by the strongest ties which can link heart to heart. We praise Thee for their perfect adaptation to our state and wants, for their power to guard from sin, and secure to individuals, families and nations, the greatest blessings which can be enjoyed on earth. We thank Thee for their restraining power; that they warn us of danger, and unfold the fearful consequences of sin. We rejoice that Thy laws are all wise and good; that they are the security and happiness of all who render cheerful obedience, and pray that all intelligent beings may obey and serve Thee. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-SECOND.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

FROM the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same, my name shall be great among the nations: and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the people, saith the Lord of Hosts.—Mal. i: 11. Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels: and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.—Mal. iii: 16–18. The Lord will not cast off forever: though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according unto the multitude of his mercies, for he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.—Lam. iii: 31–33.

PRAYER.

O FATHER, we implore Thy grace and protection for this day. Keep us temperate in our habits, and diligent in our several callings. Grant us patience under any afflictions Thou shalt see fit to lay on us, and minds always contented with our present condition. Give us grace to be just and upright in all our dealings; quiet and peaceable; full of compassion; and ready to do good to all men, according to our abilities and opportunities. Direct us in all our ways. Defend us from all dangers and adversities; and be graciously pleased to take us, and all things belonging to us, under thy Fatherly care and protection. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-THIRD.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

ALL the ends of the world shall remember and turn again unto the Lord, and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's, and He is the Governor among the nations. Send forth thy light and thy truth, O Lord: Let them lead us to thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacle, even unto God, our exceeding joy. Thou wilt show us the path of life; in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Thy mercy, O Lord, is in the heavens, and thy faithfulness is above the clouds. Thy righteousness is like the great mountains; Thy judgments are a great deep. How excellent is thy loving kindness, O God. Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings.—Sundry Psalms.

PRAYER.

OUR Father in heaven, we praise the hand that gave us life, and crowns us with daily joy and blessing. We bless the love which takes note of all our wants, and which sent Jesus to the world with messages of grace, and precepts of wisdom. We rejoice in the mercy which looks kindly upon us, though we are unthankful and evil. May we have that abiding trust in Thee, which will give rest to our souls. Order our steps by Thy law, and make us prize righteousness more than riches — wisdom more than pleasure. May we be content with little, rightly obtained, rather than strive after much, by wicked means. May we remember the Heaven whose gates are open to us all, and dwell there continually. May we be rich in heavenly treasure, and may our hearts be filled with peace. Bless us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-FOURTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

THEY that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness, as the stars for ever and ever—Dan. xii: 3. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.—Titus ii: 11, 12. Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.—Luke iii: 4–6. If any man be in Christ he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.—II. Cor. v: 17.

PRAYER.

GLORY be to Thee, O God our Father, who hast proclaimed peace on earth and good-will to men. Thanks for the glad tidings of great joy brought by Jesus Christ our Lord. We adore Thy providence in the coming of this messenger from heaven. Holy is the truth he taught, immortal the hope he inspires. Break our slumbers, and let the light of Christ search our souls and scatter our darkness. May all people be filled with his spirit of liberty, and be ruled by his law of love. Let all superstition and wrong disappear before that religion which came down from heaven, bringing good gifts to men. May Thy grace abound and Thy saving truth reign over all nations and in all hearts; and to Thee be praise everlasting. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-FIFTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.—Luke ii: 4–14.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our loving Father, we thank Thee for the rich gift of Thy dear son, and that through his love and goodness, we have seen Thy love and goodness. We thank Thee for the sweet faith that enables us to behold in him the good shepherd, the true light, the way, the truth, the resurrection and the life, the redeemer of men, and the savior of the world! May we cherish his loving spirit, be obedient to his holy commands, rejoice in his divine promises, and consecrate ourselves, more and more, to the principles of his holy religion, and finally everywhere may there be glory to Thee in the highest, peace on earth and good will unto men. Amen!

DECEMBER TWENTY-SIXTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.—Luke ii: 25–32.

PRAYER.

O THOU who art our Father, and the Father of the spirits of all flesh, we come to Thee with grateful hearts at this glad season, when we call to mind the birth of Thy dear son, whom Thou didst send to be our guide and savior. We thank Thee that Thou didst so love the world as to send him—that we might believe, and have eternal life, that we may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent. We pray that our hearts may be so filled with holy love that we may sing the angels' song, and try to bring peace on earth by our kind words and useful deeds, thus evermore making our lives an anthem of praise. And when we no longer dwell on earth, permit us according to Thy purpose and Thy promise, to serve in a fairer land, in the Father's house of many mansions, world without end. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-SEVENTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul, also;) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser; she was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon him.—Luke ii: 33–40.

PRAYER.

UNTO Thee, O Father, would we render thanks for all the blessings of life. Thou art our shelter when storms of adversity thicken around us, and art ever near to bless and comfort those who will allow Thy spirit to pervade their hearts. In Thee do we trust, and in the covert of Thy wings do we find rest and shelter. Teach us to place our hearts upon Thee, and not upon things which perish, and if our riches increase, may we not set our hearts upon them, but be ever mindful of our Father in Heaven. May we hallow Thy name, and may Thy peace dwell within us; and may Thy will be ours, and finally bring us to enjoy Thy kingdom forever. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-EIGHTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

NOW his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing. And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.—Luke ii: 41-50.

PRAYER.

O GOD, our Father in heaven, we praise Thee for the coming of Jesus Christ into the world. Help us, we pray Thee, that in this hour we may partake of his spirit, and dwell with delight upon the many wondrous scenes of his eventful life. We would go back in thought to the village of Bethlehem, and the plains of Judea, and hear the song of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest; on earth, peace, good-will to men." May we grow as he did, in grace and in knowledge, and in favor with Thee. May we have faith and confidence like his, and, through him, find a present salvation. Amen.

DECEMBER TWENTY-NINTH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

PRAISE ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his hosts. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for he commanded and they were created. He hath also established them for ever and ever: he hath made a decree which shall not pass. Praise the Lord from the earth. Both young men, and maidens; old men, and children: Let them praise the name of the Lord: for his name alone is excellent; his glory is above the earth and heaven.—Ps. cxlviii. 1-13. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people: and they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, know the Lord; for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.—Heb. viii: 10, 11.

PRAYER.

OUR Father, source of life, light and happiness! standing on the confines of the departing year, we praise Thee, that Thou hast been our shield and support, and our unfailing source of comfort. Thy mercies have gladdened our dwellings, and Thy care defended them from the hand of the spoiler; and, though we have tasted the cup of bitterness, we feel that our blessings have been far more numerous than our trials. Teach us, O Lord, that all the sources of human happiness may fail, and that our joy may be turned into sorrow. Give us, O Father, the guidance of Thy Spirit to open to us those fountains of life which perpetually flow in all their fullness. Amen.

DECEMBER THIRTIETH.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

AND they brought unto him also infants, that he would touch them: but when his disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.—Luke xviii: 15–17. And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; saying, Blessed be the King: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest. And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples. And he answered and said unto them, I tell you that if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out.—Luke xix: 37–40.

PRAYER.

FATHER of all, we give thee hearty thanks for the goodness which has attended us during the past year, for Thy numberless blessings, for the bounties which Thou hast so freely bestowed. O, keep us ever mindful of Thine infinite love. May we ever acknowledge thy favors; and give us, we pray Thee, that faith which passeth all understanding. May we be faithful in our worship, faithful to our friends, generous in our charities and sympathies, and seek to serve Thee in spirit and in truth. Through our Redeemer we ask all. Amen.

DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

LET all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you with all malice: recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: For it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good. Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.—Sundry Scriptures.

PRAYER.

O LORD, our heavenly Father, whose goodness is over all Thy creatures, we thank Thee for all the comfort and joy of the year now closing. We rejoice that Thy years have no end; but that Thou reignest forevermore, the same almighty, all-wise, and all-loving God. And as our days and months and years pass on, we rejoice in the hope of a never-fading Heaven. Make us feel Thy great love to us, and our need of Thy blessing. Help us to trust in Thee, and love Thee, and obey Thee. May we serve Thee, by serving our fellow-men. Make the coming year happy, by giving us a right spirit. Help us to be upright, and honest and truthful. Help us to be forgiving and kind. Destroy all evil pride and vanity. Feed us with the word of Christ. Forgive our sins, and receive us all to heavenly glory. Amen.

SPECIAL—BEREAVEMENT.

SCRIPTURE LESSON.

BLESSED be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforteth us in our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them who are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.—II. Cor. i: 3, 4. Though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen: but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.—II. Cor. iv: 16–18. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.—II. Cor. v: 1. Behold, I show you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.—I. Cor. 51–54.

PRAYER.

EVER merciful Father, Thou hast taken away from our sight one dear to our hearts. The light that burned so pleasantly in our midst has gone out in the darkness and coldness of the grave. The voice that made music in our hearts has fallen into silence; and the eyes that beamed love upon us, are closed forever. Desolation and grief

have come into the place of gladness and rejoicing. O God of consolation, comfort us in our distresses. Open the treasures of Thy love, and sanctify to us this painful bereavement. Enlarge and confirm our faith in the wisdom and goodness of all Thy ways. Give us the sweet assurance that death has no power over the strength and tenderness of human love, and that all that was good and true and beautiful in the beloved one still lives, and will forever live; and Father most merciful, prepare us for the upward journey, and bring us at last into that higher life, in which darkness and death shall be unknown, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Amen.

There is no death; what seems so is transition,
This life of mortal breath
Is but the suburb of the land Elysian,
Whose portals we call death.

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